

Strikers bring down the Ulster Executive

The Northern Ireland power-sharing Executive collapsed yesterday with the resignation of Mr Brian Faulkner, Chief Minister, and his Unionist team. The Unionist Party left the coalition because Mr Rees, Secretary of State, had refused to accept its advice that there should be negotiations with the Ulster Workers' Council, organizers of the crippling

general strike in the province. After Mr Faulkner's announcement, Mr Gerard Fitt, leader of the SDLP and Deputy Chief Executive, made clear that his party would try to stay in office. The Government is expected to decide today whether to attempt to form a new Executive (our Political Editor writes). The Northern Ireland Constitution Act

1973, empowers the Secretary of State to go outside membership of the Assembly to make appointments to the Executive, but that means that Mr Rees must find six men who command the confidence of majority Unionist opinion. The strike continued yesterday, with many people in the six counties without water, electricity, fuel and employment.

Mr Faulkner resigns after British refusal to negotiate

From Robert Fisk and Stewart Tendler Belfast

The "loyalists" of Ulster yesterday achieved their greatest victory over the British since the home-rule crisis over half a century ago by bringing down the 15 Protestant and Roman Catholic ministers in the Northern Ireland Executive.

Their 14-day general strike pushed the Executive to self-destruction, its members divided over whether to negotiate with the loyalists, and plunged the province into the prospect of another period of direct rule from London.

The people of the six counties, many of them without water, electricity, fuel and employment because of the strike, heard just before 2 pm that Mr Brian Faulkner had resigned as Chief Minister of Northern Ireland, for the second time in just over two years.

He had been to see Mr Rees, the Secretary of State, to ask for negotiations with the strikers, something Mr Rees and Mr Wilson could not possibly concede; and when his request was refused, Mr Faulkner handed in his resignation and those of his six Unionist ministerial colleagues.

In Protestant areas of Belfast last night hundreds of people marched through the streets behind bands and built bonfires to celebrate the downfall of their five-month-old coalition government, but the ministers who had resigned were officials who had sustained them in power were predicting a dark and disastrous future.

That view was reinforced when the strikers' leaders, not satisfied with the downfall of the Administration and of the Sunningdale agreement, which created it, announced that their strike would continue until Mr Rees talked to them about fresh elections.

In the eyes of many politicians in the province British policy in Ulster has collapsed in ruins, talking with it the hopes and aspirations of Conservative and Labour governments over the past two years.

They believe that British patience will be exhausted by the chronic unemployment which governs itself after five years of violence. There seems to be a real possibility that Britain may consider a military and economic withdrawal from the country.

One senior civil servant privately predicted such a move yesterday and Mr Oliver Napier, who served as Minister for Law Reform and is leader of the Alliance Party, made no secret of his fear that the province, after an election, might become a Protestant fascist state.

The first sign that the Administration was about to die came yesterday morning at Stormont when a meeting of Mr Faulkner's Unionist backbenchers decided that they could no longer support the Executive if it did not negotiate with the strikers.

That was an issue that was central to the Executive's downfall because Mr Roy Bradford, one of the Unionist ministers, had long been urging such negotiations.

At 11 am the Cabinet met in the parliament building and Mr Napier told his ministerial colleagues that his party's ministers felt they should try to mediate in the strike.

Mr Napier and Mr Robert Cooper, the two Unionist ministers, sided with Mr Faulkner, but the SDLP members, who had earlier urged the Government to use troops to break the strike, did not.

Mr Faulkner then went to see Mr Rees and on his return said he had tendered the resignations of his ministers and that they

had been accepted because Mr Rees refused to talk with the strikers.

The SDLP and Alliance ministers went to Stormont Castle to see Mr Rees, but it was clear to British and Ulster ministers alike that the end had come.

Mr Napier spoke to Mr Rees and to Mr Orme, the Minister of State, and said that although he favoured mediation he would not resign. Mr Rees told him that whatever he felt about the situation the coalition could not be saved.

The Assembly held a short sitting less than an hour later and the Reverend Ian Paisley tried to initiate a debate on the strike. But it was evident to the members that they might soon no longer have a parliament and the sitting was adjourned by the Speaker not long after Mr Leslie Morrell had waved aside questions directed to the Minister of Agriculture. He had resigned the office half an hour before.

In the Parliament buildings Mr Faulkner, looking relieved after the ordeal of the past two weeks, read a short statement on behalf of the Unionist members of his Administration. It referred to a forthcoming catastrophe but urged Mr Rees to try to construct a new Administration. He said:

"We believe that Northern Ireland can only be maintained as a part of the United Kingdom on the basis of cooperation between Protestants and Roman Catholics, and that is why I and my party have taken part in the Executive. We cannot speak too highly of the spirit in which, as colleagues, we from the various parties have been able to conduct our business. It is, however, apparent to us, from the extent of support for the present stoppage of the Executive does not at present exist. Nor, as Unionists, are we prepared to see our country undergo for any political reason, the catastrophe which now confronts it."

That is why I recommended this morning, on behalf of myself and my Unionist colleagues, that some sort of dialogue between Government and those confronting it should take place. But the Secretary of State was unable to accept this recommendation. We have therefore offered our resignations to the Secretary of State, and have advised him to explore at once the possibility of constructing a new Administration on a basis of broad command general public confidence.

As Mr Faulkner was speaking small groups of loyalists, who had been attending an anti-Sunningdale demonstration by farmers at Stormont, hung round the parliament precinct, some of them grinning and jeering at the former ministers. A long line of armoured vehicles and army lorries, which had been used to guard the buildings during the demonstrations, had been driven past as Mr Faulkner met the press.

The loyalists' political reaction was fierce and predictable. Mr Paisley said it was a victory that the Executive had gone, but it was only the first battle of a conflict in which loyalists intended to gain fresh elections to the Assembly.

"We will not engage in negotiations for any future Administration until the Constitution Act is signed into law," he said. "The resignation of Faulkner is a victory for Ulster and the strikers. I cannot hide my pleasure, but we must have a general election for the Assembly to let it be known."

Mr Harry West, the official Unionist leader, said he was very well satisfied that the Executive had at last collapsed. He thought there should be elections.

"My personal view is that we must have a period of direct rule during which political leaders must be called together," he continued.

Continued on page 2, col 1



Mr Faulkner announcing in Belfast yesterday the Unionists' decision to resign.

Government decision today on forming new Administration

By David Wood Political Editor

The Government is expected to decide today whether to attempt to form a new caretaker Executive in Northern Ireland. If the attempt succeeded, the Executive to replace that led by Mr Faulkner would have a life of only six months under the Northern Ireland Constitution Act, 1973. If it failed, Mr Wilson and the Cabinet would be driven back reluctantly to direct rule of the province from Westminster and Whitehall.

As Mr Rees, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said in his formal statement yesterday afternoon after accepting the resignation of Mr Faulkner and his Unionist colleagues in the Administration at Stormont, "under the terms of the Constitution Act, 1973, there is now no statutory basis for the Northern Ireland Executive."

The Temporary Provisions Act, 1972, under which the Conservative Government introduced direct rule in 1972, was renewed for a year in March, 1973, but has lapsed.

At Westminster last night, as Mr Wilson returned to Chequers from the Isles of Scilly after his troubled weekend break and Mr Rees flew back from Belfast to join him there to report on the situation, it was generally assumed that the Government will have no choice this morning but to try to create a caretaker Executive.

A ministerial meeting is expected at Downing Street this morning on which a decision will be taken on whether to attempt to form a new Executive before Mr Rees returns to Belfast.

To allow the power-sharing Executive to lapse would open up the possibility that a period of direct rule would have to be indefinitely prolonged in circumstances of disintegrating law and order, while a new workable formula for Ulster self-government could be devised and accepted by the parliament.

Opposition leaders demonstrably shared ministerial hopes that all the ground gained by Westminster bipartisan policy for Northern Ireland will not be lost at a stroke.

But hopes do not run high that a caretaker Executive will be easy to establish. It means that Mr Rees has to find six men of good will, and courage to match, who feel they command the confidence of majority Unionist opinion, and whose political reputations have not already suffered during the

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Secondly, the Secretary of State has the power to propose the Assembly. Thirdly, he can dissolve it. But both the second and third options would be calculated steps towards a return to direct rule; and every senior minister, with the support of the Opposition in Parliament, will be desperately anxious to avert that setback and the unpredictable consequences that would flow from it.

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time, described the scenes that followed. "Screaming people ran for safety in all directions. When they fled there was blood everywhere. Cries for help could be heard and mutilated bodies lay scattered on the ground."

Ambulances and police cars on the way to the scene were caught in a traffic jam and had difficulty in making their way through the narrow streets of the town centre.

All doctors in the province of Brescia were called in. More than 10 of those taken to hospital were reported to be in a very serious condition and it is feared that the final death toll may be higher.

Armed police are guarding public buildings tonight and roadblocks have been set up in and around Brescia. Four people have been arrested and the headquarters of a number of extremist organizations both of the extreme left and extreme right have been searched.

past seven years. It means finding one man who has the rare mixture of qualities that would enable him to succeed Mr Faulkner as Chief Executive.

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Mr Francis Pym, the former Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, consulted Sir Alec, and the Shadow Cabinet has been called for 6.30 pm in Mr Heath's room at the House of Commons. Sir Alec will be in the chair.

It is expected that by then Mr Wilson will have reviewed the constitutional crisis with senior ministers and that Mr Rees will be back in Northern Ireland initiating talks with possible candidates for a Chief Executive. Certainly there is thought to be scant likelihood that Mr Wilson will take the next step in haste.

Although there are signs of private dismay within the Opposition, and here and there criticism of the Government's "vacillation", Conservative leaders throughout the hours of mounting crisis yesterday stood firm by bipartisanship.

Heath, of course, is in China, and Sir Alec Douglas-Home, who is in charge of the Shadow Cabinet, was in Scotland.

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A huge bouquet of flowers from Mr Cassidy was delivered to the hospital last night. An accompanying card said: "Please get well soon best wishes and love from David Cassidy."

At Mr Cassidy's concert last night only about half the 18,000 seats at the ground of Manchester City Football Club were filled. The promoters said parents had returned tickets because of fears for their children's safety.

UK 'broke human rights code' over Asians

By Marcel Berlins Legal Correspondent

A report by the European Commission of Human Rights that the British Government has breached several provisions of the convention on Human Rights in its treatment of the Asian immigrants is embarrassing the Labour administration.

The Government may be left eventually with the stark choice between amending much of Britain's legislation on immigration or being seen to continue to defy the convention, which would inevitably lead to conflict with Britain's partners in the Council of Europe.

Some Kenyan Asians complained to the Commission as long ago as early 1970 that their exclusion from Britain, or refusal to be allowed to stay, even though they were United Kingdom citizens and passport holders, contravened the European Human Rights Convention.

Nearly 300 applications have been made to the commission by Kenyan Asians. The commission report goes with a batch of about 30 applicants, but it affects all of them.

The report has not been made public, nor will it be. It has been sent to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and to the British Government. Not even the applicants or their legal advisers have seen it.

It is understood, however, that the commission has found breaches of three provisions of the convention: article 3, which protects people from degrading treatment, article 14, which lays down that there must be no discrimination on grounds of race, colour, national origin, or other similar grounds, and article 8, which protects the right to family life. Not all the breaches were found in respect of all applicants.

The next stage may be a reference to the European Court of Human Rights, initiated either by the British Government or the commission. An announcement on whether the case is to be heard by the court is expected soon. If it does not go to the court, the Committee of Ministers will be left with the final decision on whether the breaches require any action by the British Government.

The advantages for Britain of a hearing before the court, are that it would postpone a final decision for several months at least, and possibly lead to a judgment favourable to the Government. It will mean, however, that full evidence would have to be heard, and that might bring adverse publicity.

Labour government is in a particular dilemma on this issue because the complaints of the Kenyans were based on the Commonwealth Immigrants Act, 1962, brought in by the previous Conservative Administration when Mr James Callaghan was Home Secretary.

That Act has now been repealed and replaced by the Immigration Act, 1971, which in some respects goes even further than the former Immigration Act. It is unlikely to be prepared to do enough to satisfy the court.

The Labour Government would be quite happy to amend some parts of that Act, but it is unlikely to be prepared to do enough to satisfy the court. Letters, page 15

M Giscard's Cabinet brings break with Gaullist predominance

From Charles Hargrave Paris, May 28

M Giscard d'Estaing promised that his new Government would be a surprise, and he has kept his promise. The new ministers appointed by him this evening on the recommendation of M Jacques Chirac, the Prime Minister, marks a break with Gaullist predominance.

Only three of the 16 ministers in the new Government have survived in the new one, M Soufflet at Defence, and M Jarrot, who takes over the new Ministry of the Quality of Life. The appointment of M Michel Poniatowski as Minister of the Interior is no surprise. He is the closest confidant and friend of M Giscard d'Estaing, and his party manager.

Among the prominent newcomers, apart from M Jean-Jacques Servan-Schreiber, appropriately appointed to the new Ministry of Reform, there are five independent republicans of M Giscard d'Estaing's own party, and non-party experts and technicians like M Savignacques, the new Minister of Foreign Affairs, who is French Ambassador to West Germany.

The new Government is as closely knit as M Messmer's third, itself pruned down in the last reshuffle in March. It includes only 15 ministers; the junior ministers, or state secretaries, will be announced later.

By giving non-political technicians the posts of Foreign Affairs, Economy and Finance and Education, M Giscard d'Estaing has made it clear that he means to retain control of policy in those three fields.

The appointment of M Sauvagnacques to the Foreign Ministry is indicative of the importance the new President means to give to Franco-German relations. The new German Chancellor is coming to Paris at the weekend to discuss plans for a new Franco-German initiative in Europe.

Contrary to speculation, the Ministry of Finance which M Giscard d'Estaing held for 11 years, is not broken up. By entrusting it to a man with whom he has worked since 1959, and whose last post was Director of Finance in the Ministry, M Giscard d'Estaing avoided doing that.

Some Gaullist stalwarts of several previous governments are dropped, men like M Guichard, Minister for Equipment and Housing, M Marcellin, Minister of Agriculture, and a minister since 1968, and M Perronite, with an even longer record of government membership.

Only M Galley survives, and two Gaullist senators, the first members of the Upper House to enter the Cabinet for a long time, M Soufflet at Defence, and M Jarrot, who takes over the new Ministry of the Quality of Life. The appointment of M Michel Poniatowski as Minister of the Interior is no surprise. He is the closest confidant and friend of M Giscard d'Estaing, and his party manager.

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More BBC television workers join strike

By Alan Hamilton Labour Staff

The strike by 500 BBC television scenery and outside broadcast workers, which has stopped "live" coverage of sporting events, spread yesterday when 120 more workers stopped work. Test match and Wimbledon tennis coverage is threatened.

Broadcasts of the Joe Bugner fight in Copenhagen tonight and the World Cup next month, are not expected to be affected because they will come direct from the Eurovision network. Sports coverage for the rest of this week is likely to be restricted to film highlights.

The strike hinges on the suspension by the BBC of 11 scenery men, 10 of them from the National Association of Theatrical, Television and Kine Employees (NATKE), and one from the Association of Broadcasting Staffs, some of whose members joined the stoppage yesterday.

The BBC has offered to reinstate the suspended men, but NATKE officials are demanding that they should receive full pay during their suspension, and that those on strike should receive full pay for the duration of the stoppage.

The dispute began over a proposal by the BBC to transfer some men to a higher grade in the BBC pay structure, with a wage increase of 67p a week; union leaders are demanding £1.50. The ABS has agreed to take the dispute to arbitration, but NATKE has demanded the reinstatement of its suspended members before it agrees.

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Mr Barber to take top post in banking group

By Our Financial Editor

Mr Barber, former Conservative Chancellor and now a Shadow minister without portfolio, is to become chairman of the £218m Standard and Chartered Banking Group later this year.

He will succeed Sir Cyril Hawker, the present chairman, on September 1. Shortly after the last election Mr Barber announced that he was leaving politics and that he would take a City appointment.

Standard and Chartered is the outcome of a 1969 merger between two big British overseas banks, the Standard Bank and the Chartered Bank. It maintains substantial operating interests in South Africa and in East East.

Sir Cyril, who became chairman of the Standard Bank in 1962, had been chairman of Standard and Chartered since the merger.

Bomb explodes during anti-fascist rally in Italy, killing six and injuring 79

From Our Correspondent Milan, May 28

Six people were killed and 79 injured, 36 seriously, when a bomb exploded among a crowd of several thousand workers attending an anti-fascist meeting in the Piazza della Loggia in the centre of Brescia today.

The meeting marked the climax of a four-hour local general strike called jointly by the Communist, Christian Democratic and Democratic Socialist trade union organizations to protest against increasing violence by neo-fascists in Brescia.

The bomb, described by the police as a high explosive time-bomb, went off as a procession of workers was arriving in the piazza to join other workers already there. It was in a wastepaper bin in an arcade and must have been placed there not long before, as the police had inspected the piazza earlier.

Signor Franco Castrezzato, a trade union leader who was addressing the meeting at the

time, described the scenes that followed. "Screaming people ran for safety in all directions. When they fled there was blood everywhere. Cries for help could be heard and mutilated bodies lay scattered on the ground."

Ambulances and police cars on the way to the scene were caught in a traffic jam and had difficulty in making their way through the narrow streets of the town centre.

All doctors in the province of Brescia were called in. More than 10 of those taken to hospital were reported to be in a very serious condition and it is feared that the final death toll may be higher.

Armed police are guarding public buildings tonight and roadblocks have been set up in and around Brescia. Four people have been arrested and the headquarters of a number of extremist organizations both of the extreme left and extreme right have been searched.

There seems little doubt, however, that the attack was the work of neo-fascist extremists. The head of the Brescia police and two newspapers today received copies of a typed letter signed "Black Order, Zero Year Group."

It quoted one of Mussolini's famous dicta: "He who lacks the courage to bear arms and to use them in defence of his land, his people, his race, his culture, his religion and his youth is not and must always be a slave." This was followed by a list of persons "sentenced to death" and of clubs, bars and other meeting places "that will be destroyed."

Brescia has been in recent months one of the worst centres of neo-fascist violence. Bomb attacks have taken place against left-wing cooperatives and trade union buildings. Last week a well-known neo-fascist was killed by a bomb he was carrying on his motor scooter.

Cruel timing of bomb attack and photograph, page 4

Evidence of brain damage to pop concert girl

There was no change last night in the condition of Bernadette Wheeler, aged 14, the girl whose heart stopped as hysteria gripped the London farewell concert of David Cassidy, the singer at the White City on Sunday.

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NORTHERN IRELAND

Republic's leader puts blame on IRA

From a Staff Reporter
Dublin
Misrepresentation and violence killed the Ulster power-sharing Executive, Mr Cosgrave, Prime Minister of the Republic of Ireland, said last night.



Farmers from all parts of Co Down, marching on Stormont yesterday during a rally in support of the Ulster Workers' Council.

party, criticized the "loyalists" and called on the British Government not to forget its responsibilities.

acceptance of the postponement of the Council of Ireland in terms of the survival of the Executive and that was grudgingly accepted in the Dail.

ningdale package, it was felt, was doomed.

logical thing for Britain to do now would be to declare a date by which she would have completed a planned, phased and orderly disengagement, he said.

Vote on Sunningdale started the collapse

From a Staff Reporter
Belfast, May 28
On May 14 the Northern Ireland Assembly at Stormont expressed democratically its faith in power-sharing and the Sunningdale agreement.

There were hopes that trade union marches, one led by Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, would save the day and bring people back to work.

Disruption may put up the price of eggs

By Our Agricultural Correspondent
The price of eggs is likely to go up if disruption of life in Northern Ireland is prolonged.

Mr Powell recalls his warning on Ulster

Political responses to the Executive's fall included the following:
Mr Enoch Powell, the rebel Conservative who has had a long-standing interest in Ulster's politics, said yesterday that he had given a warning about what would happen in the past, he said.

General Amin offers himself as a mediator

Nairobi, May 28—President Idi Amin of Uganda yesterday offered himself to Britain as a mediator in Northern Ireland, according to a report by Radio Uganda.

Strike in province continues as the Executive goes

Continued from page 1
At the beginning, I have to admit, we did not much fancy this strike. It seemed to have been put together very hastily, but we were amazed at the tremendous support it received once it got going.

grave. Some of the organizers of the strike were fascists. Mr Fitz, the SDLP leader and former Deputy Chief Executive, said that if they were forced out of office they would come back and do battle again in any elections.

run-down just short of collapse. There were warnings that sewage would start to back up in the pipes and spill on to the streets after sewerage workers began to walk out, but the Ulster Workers' Council called on the men to stay at work for the present.

Field Lichens were opened to feed old people. Farmers drove to Stormont with tractors to demonstrate in favour of the strike as their farms lay largely unworked. They were addressed by Mr Paisley and Mr Barr standing beneath the Carson monument.

Mr Mason pays visit to Belfast troops

Mr Mason, Secretary of State for Defence, postponed a visit to Washington yesterday and flew to Belfast (our Defence Correspondent writes). He met the GOC, Lieutenant-General Sir Frank King, and soldiers before returning to London last night.

HOME NEWS

First big strike halts Marathon shipyard

From Ronald Faux
Glasgow
Production at the Marathon yard in Clydebank stopped yesterday after a strike involving the entire 2,000 workforce.

been paid twice last year, and the men were not prepared to accept the reduction. It is understood that Marathon lost more than £1m on the Clydebank operation last year, principally through honouring agreements made with the trade unions when the company took over the yard on the liquidation of the Upper Clyde Shipbuilders.

Tory MPs plans for fishing zone policy

By Our Political Staff
The Conservative back fisheries committee has put forward to the Government recommendations for a policy on the Law of the Sea.

Role for county court in aiding, arvey ca homeless family

A call for county courts in the battle against homelessness has come from a 6 County Council working party.

Award for sergeant

Staff Sergeant Fred Mott, of the Royal Engineer who was killed when a grader in which he was instructor, was awarded Queen's Commendation in Bravery.

Shaft murder charge

A man will appear at Prestatyn, North Wales, today charged with the murder of Mrs Barbara Audrey Peacock, aged 35, of Anfield Road, Liverpool, whose body was found in a mine shaft near Prestatyn on Monday.

Taking the Tube

One of the first London electric underground railway cars, which has been in the Railway Museum at York for more than 40 years, will soon be moved to the collection of London Transport historic relics at Syon Park, Isleworth.

Weather forecast and recordings

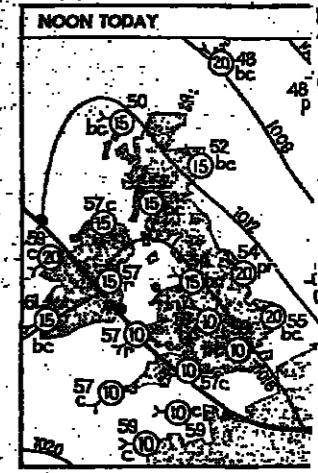
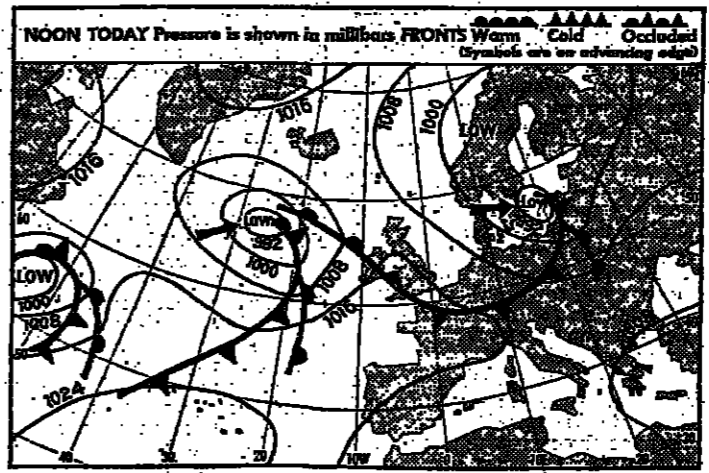


Table with weather data for various locations including London, Glasgow, and Belfast. Columns include location, sun/moon times, and weather conditions.

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Large advertisement for British Caledonian flights to South America. Features the slogan 'Let's go to SOUTH AMERICA' and details about flight routes to Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, and Santiago.

HOME NEWS

# Line boroughs planning to find foster-parents for children care by using free radio time

Healy Services Correspondent.  
London boroughs will next Monday discuss how they can use free radio time to find foster-parents for children in care.  
The same day information will be held in London for people who wish to be foster-parents.  
World in Action programme, which showed children in foster homes.  
London boroughs will take programmes on BBC London which will emphasize difficulties and realities of foster-parenting, as well as the needs of individual children.  
If there will be four programmes in July a number of short programmes brought about by simultaneous initiatives in London and Croydon services department.  
London was already preparing a radio programme on when Radio London was to all Londoners.  
The radio programme is expected after an appeal for foster-parents for six children in its programme *Woman* which produced a large response.  
John Bassett, foster care officer at Croydon, said in a meeting with the other boroughs who showed some interest in taking up Radio London was intended to work

out how the programmes should be devised.  
"We have suggested that should be a number of short items, with social workers talking about children they know who need foster homes. It would be rather like the advertising you see in newspapers for foster-parents, but more personal."  
Croydon would like the longer programmes to cover the reasons why children go into care, their reception into foster-homes and the possible initial behavioural difficulties and how foster-parents integrate into their new home, school and neighbourhood.  
The programmes should also cover the entire range of children needing foster-homes.  
But Mr Bassett emphasized that the final format depended on the views of his colleagues in the other boroughs.  
Croydon will not be using children in its care in the programmes, but if any of the other boroughs wish to, Radio London will be happy to help.  
After the meeting on Monday to see if they want to include some of their children in the programmes.  
"Everyone can benefit from this kind of programme," Mr Bassett said. "There have been a lot of one-off programmes and we think it is time to do something more systematic."  
Croydon is launching a local campaign to find foster-parents for handicapped children next

week and reviewing all the children in its care so as to be ready to deal with applications resulting from the *World in Action* programme.  
Of 5,500 people who responded after the programme, about 1,000 have made firm applications to adopt or foster a child.  
Miss Philinda Sawbridge, of adoption Resource Exchange, which is dealing with the response, said that the applications were being sorted into areas before referring parents to their local social services departments or adoption agencies. The applications have been spread around the country, with rather more from London and the South-east than elsewhere.  
"We think the appropriate next step is to hold evening meetings where potential adoptive or foster-parents can learn about the problems involved," she said. "We will have parents who have already adopted there so that they can have informal chats."  
From the response so far, it appears that most people are prepared to adopt any child, but some do have preferences to adopt a white baby and failed have asked for a white child.  
There has been little interest in adopting or fostering a physically handicapped child but Miss Sawbridge thought that might be because the application form did not mention disability.



David Nieman with his radio-controlled model helicopter which he plans to direct across the Channel and back in the next few days.

## Heads want new deal for gifted children

From Tim Devlin Education Correspondent  
Blackpool  
The Government was asked by head teachers yesterday to give thousands of very bright children a new deal in schools, otherwise many might become "delinquents and drop-outs".  
The National Association of Head Teachers decided at its conference in Blackpool to urge the Government to set up a working party to meet the needs of such children. It would like them to be included in a nationwide inquiry, which Mr Prentice, Secretary of State for Education and Science, is mounting, into under-achievers at school.  
Mr Frank Grimshaw, Tameside, Lancashire, said there were probably 194,000 children who were very bright. In most primary schools there were one or two in each age group. They were the odd ones out, he said, not always easily identifiable. They were lonely, isolated, bored and something of a nuisance to their teachers. They had a wide

## Fewer babies dying in their first year

By John Roper Medical Reporter  
Fewer babies are dying in the first year of life, but the provisional total of 16.7 deaths a thousand live births in 1973 is still higher than the 11 a thousand in Sweden in 1971 and in The Netherlands in 1972.  
The figures, published today in the Registrar General's return for the last quarter of 1973, show that there has been a drop in both still births and deaths of children within the first week of life.  
The return shows that abortions on girls under 16 are increasing. The total for the quarter was 987, against 775 in the previous quarter. But the

## Mother who killed girl by neglect is jailed

From Our Correspondent Edinburgh  
Mrs Rachel Madden, aged 28, of Inverkeithing, Fife, who killed her daughter, Emma, aged two, by neglect was jailed for two years by Lord Wheatley, the Lord Justice-Clerk, at the High Court in Edinburgh yesterday.  
An earlier court was told that Mrs Madden, who was well educated, displayed greater interest in her domestic pets, three Alsatian dogs and two cats.  
Lord Wheatley said the case was most distressing and difficult. His sentence would enable Mrs Madden to receive the psychotherapeutic treatment her condition required, while recognizing the serious nature of her offence.  
Mrs Madden had pleaded guilty at Dumfriesshire Sheriff Court to the culpable homicide of Emma Lockhart, one of two daughters by a previous marriage, by neglecting her. She had married for a second time in April and is expecting another child in August, the court was told.  
Mrs Madden stood impassive in the dock as Lord Wheatley told her the charge disclosed most alarming unnatural treatment of the child.  
It was in her interests and those of the child she was carrying that she should be properly looked after and at the same time that proper protection and care should be given to the child.  
Mr W. L. K. Cowie, QC, for the Crown, said a consultant psychiatrist said Mrs Madden had been adversely affected when Mr Madden, with whom she was then living, was posted away in January for naval service. From that time her behaviour seemed to have been characterized by apathy, inertia, depression, and loss of appetite. She was two months pregnant and in financial difficulties.  
Mr W. M. Reid, counsel for Mrs Madden, said the psychiatrist's report suggested that her emotional level was that of a girl in her teens.

## cGarvey call for wage claim restraint

Ronald Kershaw  
Crough  
All for restraint in wage demands by manual workers' and a warning that exorbitant claims by white-collar workers would not be tolerated.  
Mr Daniel Garvey, president of the makers' society, at the biennial conference opened in Scarborough yesterday.  
The underlying message of his address was a plea to trade unionists to ease the burden of the present government as far as possible, while working towards another election that would ensure the Labour party with a working majority.  
Mr Garvey outlined the government's three principal difficulties: getting the balance of payments to improve; increasing investment to stimulate economic growth and to increase pensions; and to deal with the balance of payments.  
"It would be realistic not to recognize a view of the government that there is not likely to be left for improvements in living standards over the next 2 months... as much as we expect in the trade union movement is that there should

be no reduction in the living standards of work people."  
Much had been said in recent months about the need to restore free collective bargaining. "I share that view and have never been a supporter of statutory intervention in the wage bargaining process," Mr Garvey said. "On the other hand, I do not believe that trade unions can blind themselves to the realities of the economic situation."  
The Government's commitment to provide for a significant margin for improvement in the living standards of everybody. "It is therefore sensible that we should temper our claims for recognition of this fact. This is the real meaning of social compact."  
Mr Garvey said that nevertheless it was an essential part of the social compact that the Government should seek to help working people and redistribute income and wealth in their favour. It was also essential that the earliest possible repeal of the Industrial Relations Act and its substitution by new legislation on trade union rights should be achieved.  
He continued: "It is necessary also to sound a warning against the extravagant claims of certain white-collar

# NEW HP-45

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## rilling interests clash over safety standards

By Our Social Services Correspondent  
The Norwegian agency has been a favourite choice for owners of rigs and platforms because of the work in the Ekofisk field, the first of the really big offshore structures. It has huge seabed concrete oil tank of 250,000 tons.  
The agency uses Norwegian standards derived from civil engineering works to assist designs. The procedure is different from that in the United Kingdom and other countries.  
Tests and calculations of safety factors vary widely, depending on the way each country's safety codes have evolved. The British code, CP 110, is the most recent standard in the world that applies to calculating safety factors in huge construction designs.  
The chief structural engineer of a big company in Britain said that there should be no reason why CP 110 should not be used with supplementary data as an international standard.  
Certification for offshore installations in the British sector of the North Sea is the responsibility of the department, which makes a list of societies entitled to assess standards. Designers would like the Government to ask other countries if they accept British standards, if not, although Lloyd's Register of Shipping and other international recognized societies are ready to undertake it.  
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## Oil now 'great divider' in Scotland

North Sea oil has become the great divider in Scotland, the Rev. William Johnston, convener of the church and nation committee, told the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in Edinburgh yesterday.  
He said that it divided men into spenders and hoarders, conservationists and developers and even defined the division between a political nationalist and a political unionist. It also divided communities into "haves" and "have-nots".  
"There were those who said oil was 'the great saviour' of national affairs, Mr Johnston said. They thought it would make Scotland rich even if Britain was poor, and would solve the balance of payments problems in five years."  
On the other side of the divide were those who saw oil as "the great black polluting streak". He continued: "Like the gangs of our cities it can bully and beat small communities into unrecognition; it can cut great scars both on the landscape and on the lives of men."  
"It has already increased drunkenness in Easter Ross by 600 per cent and has given rise in Peterhead to what we have been forced to call 'the great land scandal'.  
The church was obliged to put the question: 'Are we concerned for immediate gain or for long-term lasting prosperity?'

## 200 offer to contrasted church pay

Our Correspondent  
A disabled man has been told that the adapted car issued jointly to him and his disabled daughter will be withdrawn because she now goes to college away from home. Both have been offered invalid three-wheeled cars.  
Mr Patrick Day, of Islington, London, and his daughter, Tina, were given the car under a rule that says that where a household contains two disabled people who are entitled to an invalid car an adapted small car is issued instead. But cars provided by the Department of Health and Social Security under that rule can be withdrawn when a family's circumstances change.  
Mr Day told the department that his daughter had been accepted by an art college. To his surprise, he received a letter saying that as she was no longer living at home the car would be withdrawn. The department offered to sell the car to him for £275, provided he paid cash.  
Mr Day does not accept that his daughter is no longer living at home, because she returns home frequently for weekends and for longer holidays. He drives to the college to fetch her, and drives her back. Mr Day said yesterday that his daughter stayed at home for at least four months in a year.  
Although Mr A. C. Pinn, C. Director of the Disabled Drivers' Association, has told the department that it would cost about £1,500 more over the next two years to issue the father and daughter with invalid cars, it maintains that to allow a car to remain with people who are no longer eligible "will effectively deprive a fully qualified person of transport for longer than is necessary".  
When Miss Day finishes her course, she and her father are likely to qualify again for an adapted car. Mr Day is concerned lest, without reliable transport, his job as a warehouseman should be in jeopardy.

## Disabled man may lose car as daughter is at college

By Our Social Services Correspondent  
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HOME NEWS

Nurses refuse to tend private patients at some hospitals

From noon today nurses who are members of the Confederation of Health Service Employees will refuse to tend private patients at the General and Manor hospitals, Walsall...

Grandfather takes over from knaves of history

By Philip Howard A new method of reanimating the dead dry-dust-heap of dates and facts that passes for history in most schools is published today...

School's old boy signs 7-year covenant at 100

By a Staff Reporter At the age of 100 Mr P. M. Tottenham, an old boy of Eton School, Derbyshire, has signed a seven-year covenant to help the school's development appeal...

Campaign to save brewhouse for the nation

A lawyer from Truro, Cornwall, yesterday launched a campaign to preserve for the nation one of the few surviving public house brewhouses in the country...

592 court appearances

George Arthur Linstrum, aged 78, who is thought to hold the world record for the most court appearances, was back in the dock yesterday for the 592nd time...

New Bill seeks protection for furnished tenants

By Our Political Staff Full protection for furnished tenants, other than tenants of resident landlords, is proposed by the Department of the Environment in the Rent Bill published in the House of Lords yesterday...

WEST EUROPE

Herr Schmidt for Paris summit with M Giscard

From Dan van der Vat Hanover, May 28 The West German Chancellor, Herr Helmut Schmidt, will go to Paris on Friday to meet the new French President, M Giscard d'Estaing, he said at a press conference today...

Cruel timing of Brescia bomb attack

From Peter Nichols Rome, May 28 The victims of the Brescia bomb incident are weighing heavily in the delicate Italian political balance. The decision of the unions to declare a four-hour general strike in protest tomorrow gives some indication of the shock it has caused...

New ministers appointed to the French Cabinet

The posts, names, ages and former positions of members of the new French Cabinet: Prime Minister: M Jacques Chirac, 41 (UDR). Minister responsible for relations with Parliament...

Hectic month ahead for EEC Ministers

From Roger Berthoud Brussels, May 28 After several months in which the EEC has concentrated on coping with crises and adjusting to changes of leadership, Ministers of the Nine will be trying to make up for lost time in June...



A survivor of the Brescia bomb kneels, weeping, beside the body of a friend covered with banners used in the rally at which the explosion occurred. Report, page 1.

Lisbon without bread and buses as strikes spread

From Jose Shercliff Lisbon, May 28 Lisbon today was without bread and buses. Postmen could not deliver mail because of a pay strike at the central post office...

EEC pact 'will survive' renegotiation

From Our Own Correspondent The Hague, May 28 There is hope that British demands for renegotiation of EEC membership can be achieved within the present structure of the Community...

Impatient developing states invite Nine to Jamaica

From David Cross Brussels, May 28 The 40 or so African Caribbean and Pacific countries which are seeking a new trade and agreement with the European Community are urging the foreign ministers of the Nine to join them for a meeting in Jamaica at the end of July...

Barcelona-Paris time cut by new light train

From Our Correspondent Madrid, May 28 A new version of Spain's pioneer light-weight Talgo train will provide daily sleeper service between Barcelona and Paris beginning next Sunday...

Russians and Yugoslavs odds over non-alignment Prize

From Dassa Trevisan Belgrade, May 28 The opening speeches of the tenth congress of the Communist Party, which began here yesterday, have once again highlighted the difference between Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union...

OVERSEAS

White House is given until tomorrow to file tapes case reply

From Patrick Brogan Washington, May 28 The Supreme Court has instructed President Nixon's lawyers to reply on Thursday to the Watergate special prosecutor's request that the court examine the tapes case...

Fulbright challenger neared in rail popular win in Arkansas

From Fred Emery Fort Smith, Arkansas, May 28 It will now be a matter of time, observers here agree, if Governor Dale Bumpers fails to unseat Senator J. William Fulbright in today's Democratic Party primary...

Police use gas on Colombo demonstrators

Delhi, May 28—About 15 people were seriously injured when police used tear gas and batons to break up opposition demonstrators on Republic Day in Colombo, capital of Ceylon, according to reports reaching here today...

World chess data set

Moscow, May 28—Anas Karpov and Viktor Korchnoi will begin their match to decide who will challenge Boris Fischer for the world chess title in Moscow on September 15, according to UPI.

Nixon following national p...

Chinese bers...

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House

Prize

VERSEAS

# Mr Nixon tells Congress inflation is slowing and the gross national product recovering again

Frank Vogel  
Economics Correspondent  
Washington, May 28

President Nixon sent a report to Congress today forecasting that the rate of inflation will be about 7 per cent by the end of the year, compared with an annual rate of 9 per cent in the first quarter. He also said the real gross national product developed in the second half of 1974 would be nearly 4 per cent higher than it was in the first quarter of 1974.

The report said: "Events tended to dispel the earlier fear of a recession—either in the United States or worldwide—and to focus attention even more heavily on the danger of worldwide inflation. This concern with inflation is uppermost in the minds of many Americans because of the sharp increase in the price of energy. This increase will be significantly lower by the end of this year than it has recently been."

The council of economic advisers suggested that the inflation rate was already slowing down and that retail food and energy prices, which accounted for fully 59 per cent of the increase in the consumer price index in the past year, would rise much less rapidly than they did in the past months or in the past year, and less rapidly than other prices.

The forecast 7 per cent domestic inflation rate is slightly higher than the council's forecast of earlier this year. For the year as a whole Dr Herbert Stein, the council's chairman, said he expects an inflation rate of 8 per cent.

The report says that unwisely policy actions or excessive wage demands could endanger the good prospects now of reducing inflation. "The main necessity is for moderation and self-restraint by labour and business in the months just ahead", it says.

The large profit figures now being published are greatly inflated by the effect of rapidly rising prices on the value of inventories, which is not a source from which higher wages can be paid.

On the policy side, the council gives a strong warning against tax cuts. With regard to the planned \$305,000m (£122,000m) budget for fiscal year 1975, Dr Stein said the Administration was studying whether cuts could be made. A return to price and wage controls must be opposed. "We have learned that [controls] is not an abiding solution", Dr Stein said.

The council blames the decline in the gross national product so far this year on the energy crisis and states that the fall in the first quarter was almost entirely due to car production. The report notes that output is now rising; that for the second half GNP should develop nearly 4 per cent; that unemployment will not exceed 5.5 per cent to 6 per cent; and that "The prospective path of economic expansion is not so steep as in itself to cause a new surge of inflation".

## Mr Rabin's Cabinet leaves out Mr Eban

From Moshe Brilliant  
Tel Aviv, May 28

Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the Israel Prime Minister designate, tonight completed the formation of a new Government consisting of 17 ministers but without four pillars of Mrs Golda Meir's outgoing government.

He announced it at a meeting of a caucus of the Labour Party's Parliamentary faction and leadership bureau and obtained approval without votes against and without abstentions. The Government will replace Mrs Meir's administration, which fell on April 10, after it had won a parliamentary vote of confidence.

Apart from Mrs Meir, faces that will disappear from the Cabinet will be Mr Moshe Dayan, the Defence Minister, Mr Pinhas Sapir, the Finance Minister, and Mr Abba Eban, the Foreign Minister. Of the four only Mr Eban had indicated his willingness to continue in office, but he refused to accept any post other than foreign affairs, which Mr Rabin had assigned to Mr Eban.

Mr Eban, the Minister of Agriculture, is also retiring. They are being replaced in the Cabinet by veteran members of Parliament, some of whom had long aspired to Cabinet posts but had been systematically bypassed by Mrs Meir in favour of retired generals. A political novice, the general manager of the Workers Bank, will succeed Mr Sapir as Finance Minister.

There was a patent lack of enthusiasm for the new Government within the ruling Labour Alignment, which comprises the Alignment Party, MAPAM and Arab deputies. Some Labour Party leaders were critical of the way Mr Rabin had ignored Mr Eban, who had been quarrelled, and offered Mr Alon, his former commander in the armed forces, the deputy premiership as well as the foreign affairs portfolio.

Mr Dayan and his Rafi associates have said they would prefer a Government coalition including Mr Alon, the Minister of Education and the National Religious Party. Of the discontented, only one deputy, Mr Ben Porat of Rafi, said he would vote against the Government in the confidence test. This might have deprived the Rabin Government of its majority.

Speaking at a dinner in honour of Dr Kreisky, the Austrian Chancellor, who is visiting Moscow, Mr Kosygin said that the conference, now in its second stage at Geneva, had achieved definite results. "We think that awareness of the high responsibility of all the participants in the conference for its success will allow them to overcome difficulties in its work and successfully hold the final stage of the conference at the highest level", he said.

The Soviet Union and its East European allies have been pressing for the conference to convene a summit meeting of heads of government. But the Western participants have been reluctant to agree to it until progress has been made on the issue of human contacts between the two halves of Europe.—Reuter.

Mr Rabin is thus expected to take out a vote of confidence in the Knesset. The new members of the Government are: Mr Moshe Baran, who succeeds Mr Rabin as Minister of Labour; Mr Aharon Yadin, who succeeds Mr Alon as Minister of Education; Mr Abraham Ofer, who becomes Minister of Communications; and Mr Gad Yaakov, long-time Minister of Transport.

Mr Yaakov Levinson, aged 42, who is a banker, was allowed three months to wind up his affairs before assuming the Finance portfolio, which will be given to Mr Yehoram Zolotov, 57, who is a businessman and Mr Haim Zadok, the Minister of Justice.

Another newcomer to the Cabinet is Mrs Shulamit Aloni of the civil rights movement who will be Minister without Portfolio.

## Mr Heath given a boisterous welcome to Shanghai yesterday, plays table tennis at a "children's palace" in the city.

From David Bonavia  
Shanghai, May 28

Mr Heath was given a rousing send-off from Peking airport today, with an honour guard such as is usually reserved for heads of state. A Chinese official deliberately drew my attention to the protocol of the departure ceremony, which was at a considerably higher level than when Mr Heath arrived here.

All three branches of the armed forces were represented by smart guards detachments and there was a unit of men and women of the Peking People's Militia. A military band played "God Save the Queen" and the Chinese national anthem "Arise".

The only observable difference between the protocol for Mr Heath and that for a head of state was the absence of the diplomatic corps other than British Embassy. Mr Teng Hsioping, the Deputy Prime Minister, with whom Mr Heath has conducted most of his talks, saw him off and Mr Chiao Kuan-hua, Deputy Foreign Minister, accompanied him to Shanghai.

A Chinese-owned Trident airliner brought Mr Heath and his official party from Peking to Shanghai, where they were welcomed by thousands of young women and girls in brightly coloured costumes, waving paper flowers, dancing and chanting. "A warm welcome to Edward Heath", Shanghai is famous for its boisterous welcomes, and the noise from an enormous red drum near the aircraft steps was almost deafening. Leading actors performed a traditional lion dance on the tarmac.

Before leaving Peking after his three-day stay there the British opposition leader was present at a state banquet given by Chairman Mao Tse-tung and Mr Chou En-lai, the Prime Minister. Mr Heath had talks with both during his stay.

The visit, said to be of blue and white porcelain, date from the Chien Lung period of the eighteenth century. Objects dated earlier than the nineteenth century are not usually allowed to be exported from China.

## Mao gift of porcelain to Mr Heath

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## Mr Kosygin puts pressure on for a summit

Moscow, May 28.—Mr Kosygin, the Soviet Prime Minister, today called on European governments to overcome the difficulties in the work of the European security conference to enable a summit conference to be held.

Speaking at a dinner in honour of Dr Kreisky, the Austrian Chancellor, who is visiting Moscow, Mr Kosygin said that the conference, now in its second stage at Geneva, had achieved definite results. "We think that awareness of the high responsibility of all the participants in the conference for its success will allow them to overcome difficulties in its work and successfully hold the final stage of the conference at the highest level", he said.

The Soviet Union and its East European allies have been pressing for the conference to convene a summit meeting of heads of government. But the Western participants have been reluctant to agree to it until progress has been made on the issue of human contacts between the two halves of Europe.—Reuter.

Mr Rabin is thus expected to take out a vote of confidence in the Knesset. The new members of the Government are: Mr Moshe Baran, who succeeds Mr Rabin as Minister of Labour; Mr Aharon Yadin, who succeeds Mr Alon as Minister of Education; Mr Abraham Ofer, who becomes Minister of Communications; and Mr Gad Yaakov, long-time Minister of Transport.

Mr Yaakov Levinson, aged 42, who is a banker, was allowed three months to wind up his affairs before assuming the Finance portfolio, which will be given to Mr Yehoram Zolotov, 57, who is a businessman and Mr Haim Zadok, the Minister of Justice.

Another newcomer to the Cabinet is Mrs Shulamit Aloni of the civil rights movement who will be Minister without Portfolio.

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## Ban prolonged on Athens opposition newspaper

From Our Correspondent  
Athens, May 28

The military commandant of Athens prolonged for a further six months the closing of the non-communist conservative newspaper *Vradyni* because its publication next Monday would "certainly cause upheaval and a sense of insecurity among citizens".

The Athens evening newspaper, which voiced right-wing opposition to the Greek dictatorship, was shut down for six months without explanation barely a week after the November coup which overthrew President Papadopoulos.

The prospect that *Vradyni* was to be published again on June 3, under a new editor and staff, had caused concern among other Athens publishers whose newspapers had gained from *Vradyni*'s eclipse. This anxiety was increased by the massive demand for advertising space in *Vradyni*.

All this indicated that the newspaper, merely because of its opposition to the regime and its punishment, would be so popular that it would have broken all circulation records in Greece.

As the news of fresh action against *Vradyni* spread in Athens today, Mr Demetrios Karakostas, the under-secretary in charge of press affairs, spoke of the importance the Government attached to the press and professional journalists.

Mr Heath later visited a "children's palace" in Shanghai, where he saw schoolchildren practising on Western and Chinese musical instruments and performing ballet and gymnastics. In the table tennis room he took off his jacket and matched himself against one of the pupils.

Peking, May 28.—Mr Chou En-lai, the Chinese Prime Minister, who is 76, made his first appearance at a major public function for three weeks when he spoke at a state banquet tonight in honour of Tun Abdul Razak, the visiting Malaysian Prime Minister.

Yesterday Mr Chou told a group of British journalists that ill-health was forcing him to reduce his customary work load.—Reuter.

## Dr Buthezi is freed from banning order

From Our Correspondent  
Cape Town, May 28

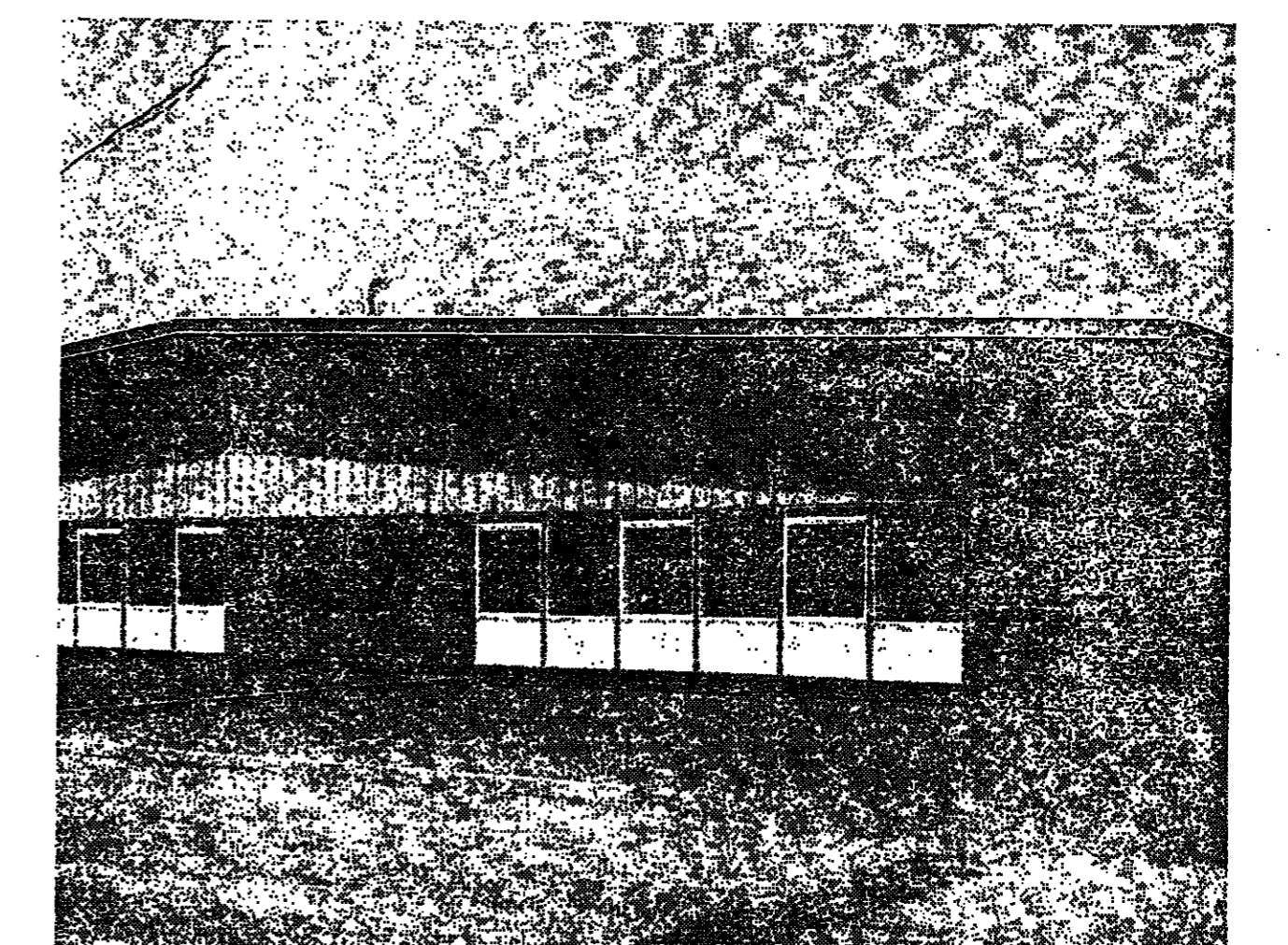
The banning order on Dr Manas Buthezi, under which he could not be quoted or attend gatherings, and which caused worldwide protest when it was imposed last December, has been lifted, security police said today.

Dr Buthezi, a cousin of Chief Gqoke Buthezi, the Zulu leader, has an international reputation as a Lutheran churchman and theologian. He is Natal regional director of Dr C. F. Beyers Naude's anti-apartheid Christian Institute of South Africa.

No reasons were given for the surprise withdrawal of the five-year order.

## Allergic elephant runs amuck

Delhi, May 28.—Police here fired 13 shots before killing a circus elephant which charged a hut filled with people, after killing a horse and wrecking a car, the Press Trust of India reports. The elephant was said to be allergic to horses.—UPI.



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## Portuguese soldiers killed in rail ambush

Beira, Mozambique, May 28.—Portuguese soldiers were killed and two wounded today in a guerrilla ambush on a train about 100 miles north of Beira, military sources here said.

The incident took place near Matungo station, which is on the Beira to Malawi railway line. The train was carrying about 500 people, including many wounded, when it was ambushed by guerrillas on the same line today, guerrillas chine-gunned a north-bound train. There were no casualties.

The Portuguese authorities said they would no longer create political organisations and private citizens who publicly supported the rebels.

Portugal has ordered its troops in Angola to halt all operations and has said it was prepared to do the same in Mozambique in an effort to bring the insurgents to the negotiating table, but so far the guerrillas in both colonies have rejected the offer.—Reuter and UPI.

Luanda, Angola, May 28.—An outbreak of racial unrest on Monday led to a ban yesterday on street demonstrations in Angola. It was the first time since the military coup in Lisbon that such a restriction had been placed on the press or on the political activity in Portugal's overseas territories.—New York Times Service.

## Mr Smith flies to South Africa

From Our Correspondent  
Cape Town, May 28

Mr Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister, has flown to Cape Town to talk with Mr Botha, the South African Prime Minister. His visit was kept secret until he had landed in South Africa.

The two leaders meet usually once a year, normally in Johannesburg. They last had talks in Cape Town in June last year. It is obvious that the two are uppermost in their minds are the Rhodesian settlement issue and political developments in Mozambique. The joint committee of the African National Congress and the South African Communist Party met on Sunday and it is widely expected that there is a good chance that proposals for a settlement already reached between Mr Smith and Bishop Abel Muzoora, the ANC leader, will be approved.

## Opera House cost £62m

Perth, May 28.—The final cost of the Sydney Opera House is \$102m (more than £62m), New South Wales Government has announced.

The original architect estimated the cost at \$72,000,000 (£45,000,000). State lotteries met most of the cost, but the deficit is expected to be covered within 12 months.—AP.

## Stalin Prize author under renewed fire

Moscow, May 28.—Mr Viktor Kravsov, the veteran Soviet author, has been expelled from the official Cinema Writers' Union "for actions inimical to membership" of the body.

At the same time there were reports that Mr Kravsov had won the Stalin Prize in 1948 for his semi-autobiographical novel *In the Trenches of Leningrad*, was about to be awarded the Order of Lenin. The moves against the writer, who is 62, came after the appearance in the West of an article which he expressed admiration for Dr Sakharov, the Soviet nuclear physicist, and Alexander Solzhenitsyn, the dissident writer.

According to friends of Mr Kravsov, who lives in Kiev,

## Soares flight to Lisbon after concession

By Nicholas Ashford

Dr Mario Soares, the Portuguese Foreign Minister, and Lieutenant-Colonel Joao de Almeida Bruno, a key member of the Portuguese delegation engaged in peace negotiations with the Guinea-Bissau nationalists (PAIGC), left London for Lisbon suddenly yesterday.

Their abrupt departure came amid growing indications that a breakthrough in the talks was imminent. It was assumed that the two men, who had earlier been in telephone contact with Lisbon, had been recalled to consult with President Spinoza on the latest stage of the London negotiations.

The talks reached a crucial stage yesterday with the PAIGC indicating that it is prepared to separate the question of the strategic Cape Verde islands from that of mainland Guinea-Bissau.

The question of the islands was the main topic of discussions at yesterday's talks. At the end of the morning session, Mr Jil Fernandes, spokesman for the PAIGC delegation, said the problem was "almost resolved". They had been discussing whether PAIGC would agree to Portugal granting independence to mainland Guinea-Bissau excluding the islands.

If PAIGC does agree to separate the two issues it will be an important concession. Either the organisation has insisted that the islands are a historically and culturally part of mainland Guinea-Bissau. Many of the PAIGC leaders come from the islands.

The Portuguese had hoped to avoid raising the question of independence for the islands at the London meeting as only to arrange a ceasefire. They maintain that there has been no fighting in Cape Verde and therefore a ceasefire does not apply.

The islands, lying 400 miles to the west of Senegal, are of considerable strategic value. They are also an important communications centre and one of them, Sal, is a staging post for South African Airways flights from the Cape to Europe.

## Dr Kissinger makes one last effort

From Eric Marsden  
Jerusalem, May 28

Dr Kissinger's decision to fly back to Damascus today in a final effort to achieve a disengagement agreement between Israel and Syria was made after a private meeting with Mrs Golda Meir. The Israeli Prime Minister had just concluded a six-hour cabinet session which continued the late-night meeting after Dr Kissinger's return from Syria last night.

Mrs Meir is believed to have urged the Secretary of State to make one last personal attempt to bridge the gap after Israel had agreed to further concessions. But Israel's position was not thought to have changed over fundamental issues such as security of the Golan settlement and the demand that Syria drop its sponsorship of terrorists operating from its soil.

The Cabinet, most of whose members have been holding almost continuous talks on disengagement and the internal government crisis during the past few days, was expected to meet again tonight on Dr Kissinger's return from the Syrian capital.

Dr Kissinger told Mrs Meir that having presented each side's ideas and concessions to the other from the start of the negotiations, he felt he owed it to both to carry the last messages personally between the leaders.

Even if the deadlock persists, the Secretary of State's achievement has been considerable. This is shown by details filtering through of the latest position of the Israel negotiators on the United Nations buffer zone and the restricted areas on each side of it.

The Israelis originally wanted 3,000 troops in the buffer zone but are reported to have agreed to less than half that figure. Syria suggested 999, to hold to its position that

## Dr Kissinger makes one last effort

From Our Correspondent  
Damascus, May 28

Both countries have agreed that there should be two restricted zones on each side of the United Nations zone, each about six miles deep. In the zones closest to the United Nations area each country will be allowed 6,000 troops, 15 tanks and 36 short-range guns. In the outer zones there will be 450 tanks and no thinning out of forces, to meet Syrian objections to weakening the Damascus defences, though ground-to-air missiles and anti-aircraft guns will be banned in both restricted zones.

Damascus, May 28.—As Dr Kissinger arrived back in Damascus tonight a senior official on his aircraft said that agreement was "very, very close".

Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, is also in Damascus having discussions with President Assad.—UPI.

## President Sadat sends friendly letter to Russia

From Our Correspondent  
Cairo, May 28

President Sadat, in a message to Soviet leaders, has said that Egypt still values "friendship with the Soviet people".

President Sadat's message was in reply to one from Mr Brezhnev, the Communist Party leader on May 25, the third anniversary of the signing of the Egyptian-Soviet friendship and cooperation treaty.

The Egyptian-Soviet exchange of friendly messages followed a strained period after President Sadat accused the Soviet Union of failing to provide Egypt with its needs of sophisticated weapons.

Mr Kravsov first fell from favour in the early 1960s, when he published travel notes giving a sympathetic picture of life in the United States, France and Italy and criticized official restrictions on Soviet tourists abroad.

But he also incurred strong official displeasure with his campaigns over the years for a monument to be erected on the site of the wartime massacre of Jews by the Nazis and their Ukrainian collaborators at Babi Yar, on the edge of Kiev.

He was expelled two years ago from the Communist Party, which he joined as a junior officer at the height of the 1942 battle of Stalingrad. He has not been published here since.—Reuter.





ENTERTAINMENTS

OPERA AND BALLET

COVENT GARDEN, 30.19.11. The Royal Opera House...

BALLET GALLEGOS

folk dances & music from Galicia

CONCERTS

27th ALDEBURGH FESTIVAL

14th June, 8.30pm. 15th June, 8.30pm.

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL

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THE ARTS

The German imagination: Lehmbruck and Grass

Portsmouth City Museum and Art Gallery is one of the best arranged of provincial museums.

ART EXHIBITIONS

ENGLISH WATERCOLOURS & DRAWINGS

An Exhibition by David Green

THE KING

A new play with music by David Green

THE MOUSETRAP

22nd June 8.30pm. 23rd June 8.30pm.

SAVOY

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WINDMILLS

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PERICLES



Wanted: Good secretaries—at almost any price, it seems

Why we should give more thought to the kind of food we eat

In Oxford Street, the Alfred Marks Bureau offered me immediate temporary work as a shorthand typist...

that are frequently made against secretarial agencies. One is that many agencies will take on anyone at all, paying little attention to real qualifications or skills...

ask for more money, while they really want more job satisfaction. Boredom with a job may be one of the things that lure a girl into the temporary business...

Many of them don't understand that there will be huge tax demands waiting for them at the end of the year. On the matter of racial discrimination, the Race Relations Board has recently been investigating allegations against three big agencies...

'Aristocrats of the clerical world'

The shortage of both temporary and permanent secretaries is becoming more acute. When I did a similar inquiry a couple of years ago, Mr Bernard Marks, chairman and managing director of the Alfred Marks Bureau, told me that at the height of summer he was registering three to eight jobs for every available girl...

New legislation, the Employment Agencies Act of 1973, will soon bring the temp business under control for the first time. But meanwhile another scheme has been introduced by some agencies to lure girls into their service: the freelance game.

Opposition to the freelance idea

Major Donald Cropper, secretary of the Federation Services of Great Britain, which has a membership of about 500 agencies, is incensed by the freelance idea, and hopes to get something done about it in Parliament.

More imagination in employment

'Circumstances have a lot to do with it,' says the Race Relations Board. 'If the interviewer is working on a commission basis, he's not going to waste time on people he doesn't think he can place—like old people, or blacks, or hippies.'

Two girls looking for a job

The difference between us is that I am white and Rita is black. I have never taken a secretarial course and have no shorthand. My typing is quite fast, but it is three-fingered and erratic.

Advertisement for Lambert, Flint, Rawlence & Squarey, real estate agents. Includes contact info and a list of properties for sale/rent in various London areas like Chelsea, Kensington, and Knightsbridge.

Advertisement for Birley Lodge, a development of 46 quality flats and 2 luxury penthouses in Acacia Road, St. Johns Wood, NW8. Features a large hall, reception room, and modern amenities.

Advertisement for Lewis & Richards, real estate agents. Lists properties such as Sussex Lodge, St. John's Wood, and Connaught House.

Advertisement for West Sussex and Kingston properties. Includes details on furnished houses, long/short leases, and beautiful houses available.

Advertisement for D. Pinto & Co., real estate agents. Features a top executive luxury first floor flat for sale in a prime location.

Advertisement for Druce & Co., real estate agents. Promotes a 54-56 Baker Street, London W.1, with modern facilities and underground access.

Advertisement for Burn Searle & Co., real estate agents. Lists properties in Chelsea, S.W.3, including a spacious modern 3rd floor flat.

Advertisement for Country Coach House, an isolated country cottage with a large garden and modern amenities.

Advertisement for Druce & Co., real estate agents. Promotes new luxury 1 & 2 bedroom flats and penthouses in Hampstead, N.W.3, with modern facilities and underground car park.

Advertisement for Blake & Co., real estate agents. Features a 61 Portman Towers, W.1, a luxurious three-floor flat with superb decor.

Advertisement for Maskell & Co., real estate agents. Lists properties such as a 107 Walton St., London SW3 2HP, and an overlooking Battersea Park flat.

Advertisement for various properties including a rare opportunity to purchase a building plot, building sites, and a bargain property in Reading.



# SAVILLS

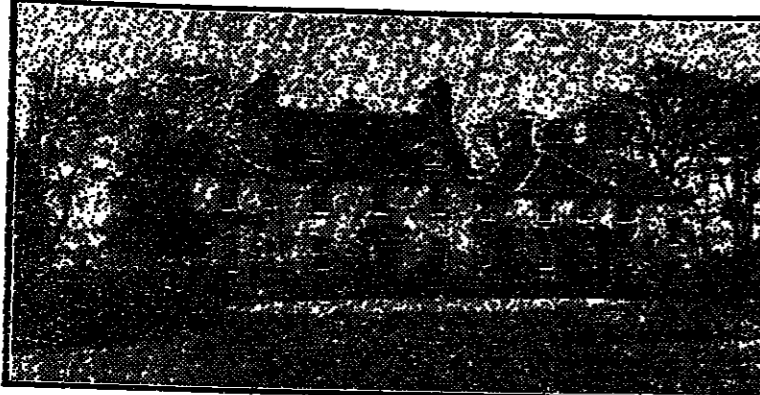
In conjunction with  
**JOHN SALE & PARTNERS**  
*Wooler, Selkirk, Galashiels*  
THE BORDERS

## ROSS-SHIRE 1 MILE

*Inverness 15 miles*

### A MILE ON THE RIVER CONON

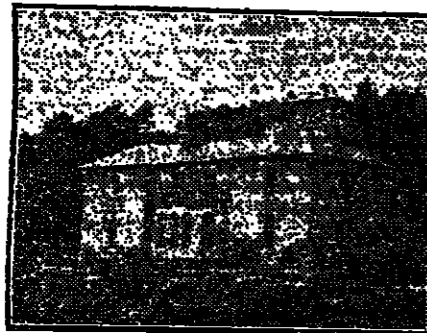
Exclusive fishing rights with an average of 400 Salmon and Grilse. 8 named pools. 3 adjoining cottages with vacant possession. Ideal for conversion to lodge with staff accommodation. J. T. SUTHERLAND, Bank of Scotland Buildings, Brechin, Angus, Tel: Brechin 2187. SAVILLS, London Office. Tel: 01-499 8644.



## FIFE

*St. Andrews 3 miles, Dundee 10 miles, Edinburgh 46 miles*

**KINCAPLE HOUSE.** Superb Georgian country house standing in its own timbered park and gardens overlooking St. Andrews Bay. 4 reception rooms, master bedroom suite, 6 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 2 self-contained flats and separate gardener's flat. Immaculate walled garden and policies with tennis court, paddock court and heated swimming pool. J. T. SUTHERLAND, Bank of Scotland Buildings, Brechin, Angus. Tel: Brechin 2187. SAVILLS, London Office. Tel: 01-499 8644.



## ABERDEENSHIRE

*Aberdeen 25 miles, Lumphanan 6 miles.*

### TO LET FURNISHED

Delightful country house centrally situated between Deeside and Donside. 3 reception rooms, 7 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, garaging and attractive grounds. J. T. SUTHERLAND, Bank of Scotland Buildings, Brechin, Angus. Tel: Brechin 2187. SAVILLS, London Office Tel: 01-499 8644.

## IN SCOTLAND



## ANGUS 714 ACRES

*Arbroath 5 miles, Forfar 6 miles*

**THE BALGAVIES ESTATE.** Superb and easily managed agricultural estate. Attractive principal house with 4 reception rooms, 5 principal and 4 secondary bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, lodge and 4 cottages (vacant), farm and 5 cottages (let), 45 acre loch, 60 acres of woodland, and 40 acres arable with vacant possession. Excellent shooting and fishing potential. J. T. SUTHERLAND, Bank of Scotland Buildings, Brechin, Angus. Tel: Brechin 2187. SAVILLS, London Office. Tel: 01-499 8644.

## PERTHSHIRE—Blairgowrie

### 24 ACRES

*Glenshee Ski Slopes 15 miles, Pitlochry 19 miles, Braemar 28 miles, Edinburgh Airport 44 miles.*  
**BRIDGE OF GALLY HOTEL.** Attractive hotel in a prime commercial site on the main tourist route to Royal Deeside and Glenshee Ski Resort. Dining room, residents' lounge, bar, kitchens, 1 bedroom with bathroom, 8 bedrooms including master suite, 2 bathrooms, staff accommodation, bungalow with 2 rooms, kitchen and shower room. Stables with planning permission for further accommodation. Petrol Pumps. Outline planning permission for chalet development. ROBERT BARRY & CO., 11 South Charlotte Street, Edinburgh. Tel: 031-225 2944. SAVILLS, London Office. Tel: 01-499 8644.

## ISLE OF SKYE—Kyleakin

### 30 ACRES

*Fort William 69 miles. Is. of Skye Airfield 37 miles.*  
Compact farmhouse on the Ob Water facing the mainland. 4 reception rooms, 6 bedrooms and bathroom. Cottage annexe. Land also available for development. About 30 acres in all.

J. T. SUTHERLAND, Bank of Scotland Buildings, Brechin, Angus. Tel: Brechin 2187. SAVILLS, London Office. Tel: 01-499 8644.

## SUTHERLAND

*Helmsdale 9 miles, Wick Airport 38 miles, Inverness 100 miles.*

Unique and charming cottage, superbly maintained, tucked away amongst a stand of Scots pine facing south immediately overlooking the Falls Pool of the Helmsdale with the Strath beyond. Drawing room, dining room, 3 original Thorburn murals, 7 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, excellent outbuildings, derelict cottage with planning permission to rebuild. About 2 acres. J. T. SUTHERLAND, Bank of Scotland Buildings, Brechin, Angus. Tel: Brechin 2187. SAVILLS, London Office. Tel: 01-499 8644.

## J. T. SUTHERLAND

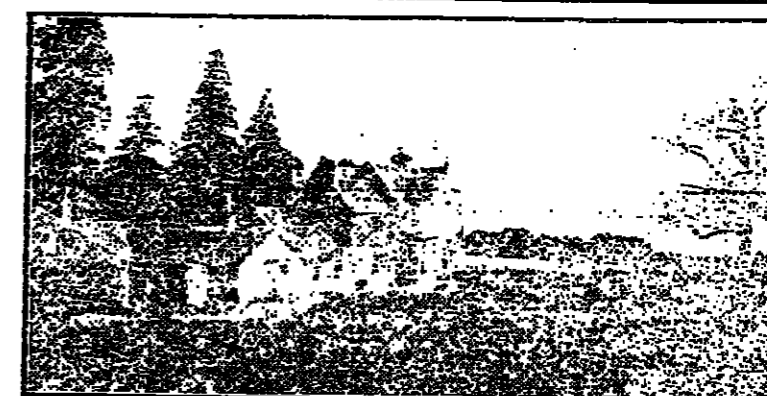
*Brechin, Angus*

CENTRAL AND NORTH

## KINCARDINESHIRE 616 ACRES

*Laurencekirk 4 miles*

Farmhouse with magnificent view to coast. 3 modernised cottages and 2 semi-detached cottages. Very extensive modern Steading with substantial capital expenditure allowances available. Recent major modernisation scheme including fencing, drainage, shelter belts and reseeded. Unique opportunity to purchase 600 acres arable and livestock farm with fixed equipment of most modern standard. 616 acres with vacant possession. J. T. SUTHERLAND, Bank of Scotland Buildings, Brechin, Angus. Tel: Brechin 2187. SAVILLS, London Office. Tel: 01-499 8644.



## ARGYLL

*Lochgilphead 2 miles, Glasgow 90 miles*

Attractive stone-built country house on the West shore of Loch Fyne. 3 reception rooms, 3 double and 2 single bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, oil-fired central heating, cottage for conversion. About 7 acres.

JOHN SALE & PARTNERS, 7 Bank Street, Galashiels, Selkirkshire. Tel: Galashiels 4842. SAVILLS, London Office. Tel: 01-499 8644.



## KINCARDINESHIRE Royal Deeside

*Banchory 5 miles, Aberdeen 12 miles.*

Charming Georgian house within easy commuting distance of Aberdeen. 2 reception rooms, 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, staff flat, oil-fired central heating, stabling and garage accommodation, beautiful walled garden. About 3 1/2 acres. J. T. SUTHERLAND, Bank of Scotland Buildings, Brechin, Angus. Tel: Brechin 2187. SAVILLS, London Office. Tel: 01-499 8644.

# ENGLAND

## KENT—Benenden

*Staplehurst Station 8 miles—City about an hour.*  
Exceptional period house of Tudor origin, highly modernised with spacious rooms. Entrance hall, magnificent 30ft x 20ft drawing room, study, dining room, 5 principal bedrooms, 2 dressing rooms, shower room, 4 bathrooms (including 3 suites), Nursery flat of playroom/sitting room, 4 bedrooms and 5th bathroom. Central heating and humidifier systems. Easily maintained gardens and grounds. About 7 acres. Further 8 acres and bungalow let on lease. SAVILLS, London Office. Tel: 01-499 8644.

## UPPER ITCHEN—RIVER ALRE 1,950 YARDS

*Alresford 1 mile, Winchester 7 miles.*  
**OUTSTANDING CHALK STREAM FISHERY** with excellent small house overlooking the river. House—2 reception rooms, study, rod room, 4/5 bedrooms, bathroom. Bailiff's cottage, 1,950 yards of double bank fishing on the River Alre, stew ponds, 2 small lakes, eel trap, field of 8 acres. About 22 acres in all. Including river area. SAVILLS, London Office. Tel: 01-499 8644.

## BROADWAY—WORCESTERSHIRE

Outstanding property of great charm and character in a fine situation in this beautiful and well-known village backing on to orchard and farmland. 2/3 reception rooms, magnificent converted 43ft barn, 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, central heating, modern cottage, delightful garden, garaging for 3 cars, outbuildings and small paddock. About 1.3 acres. SAVILLS, London Office. Tel: 01-499 8644.

## BUCKINGHAMSHIRE—OXFORDSHIRE BORDER 33 ACRES

*Thame 6 miles, Oxford 14 miles.*  
Magnificent 18th century manor house situated on the edge of the pretty village of Brill with fine views over open farmland. 4 reception rooms, 6 principal bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, Edwardian wing with domestic quarters and 2 staff flats, oil-fired central heating, pair of cottages, stable block, garaging for 4 cars, gardens and grounds of about 6 acres together with 27 acres of pasture land. SAVILLS, London Office. Tel: 01-499 8644.

## OXON/NORTHANTS BORDER

*Banbury 3 miles, Brackley 10 miles.*  
Charming stone farmhouse with excellent fully modernised accommodation. 3 reception rooms, 4 bedrooms, bathroom, attic. Gas-fired central heating. Stone Barn with planning permission for conversion to residential use. Stabling, garage and garden. SAVILLS, 21 Horse Fair, Banbury, Oxfordshire. Tel: (0295) 3535.

## SUSSEX 120 ACRES

*Faygate Station 1 mile, Victoria about 1 hour, Horsham 6 miles, Crawley 6 miles.*  
Outstanding small agricultural and residential Estate. 16th century farmhouse with 3 reception rooms, 2 cloakrooms, 4/5 bedrooms, 1/2 dressing rooms, 2 bathrooms, attic bedrooms, and playroom, central heating, attractive gardens with 2 duck ponds, excellent range of farmbuildings, 3 cottages. 15 acres of woodland and 102 acres of farmland. Vacant possession of the whole (except one service-cottage). About 2 acres. SAVILLS, London Office. Tel: 01-499 8644.

## NORTH NORFOLK 1429 ACRES

**THE GUNTHORPE ESTATE.** Outstanding agricultural investment property comprising 4 let farms and other let land. 76 acres of woodland and land in hand. Producing £14,756 per annum. Auction in July (unless previously sold.) SAVILLS, 3 Oak Street, Fakenham. Tel: (0328) 2398 or 8/10 Upper King Street, Norwich. Tel: (0603) 29121 or London Office. Tel: 01-499 8644.

## KENT near Maidstone 772 ACRES

*Access to London via M2 and M20.*  
Arable farm situated in an elevated position on the downs. Period house with 3 reception rooms, 6 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, substantial buildings with storage for nearly 1,000 tons corn and 3 cottages. Auction on 25th June (unless previously sold) with vacant possession. HOBBS PARKER, 9 Tufton Street, Ashford. Tel: (0233) 22222. SAVILLS, 136 London Road, Chelmsford, Essex. Tel: (0245) 69311.

## NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

*Banbury 9 miles, Daventry 8 miles.*  
Fine period mill house beautifully modernised to a high standard. 3/4 reception rooms, Master suite with bathroom, 5 bedrooms, bathroom. Shower room, domestic offices, garaging, outbuildings, swimming pool, gardens and paddock. About 3 1/2 acres. SAVILLS, 21 Horse Fair, Banbury, Oxon. Tel: (0295) 3535.

## MID SUSSEX

*London 31 miles, Gatwick 8 miles, Three Bridges Station 4 miles—London 46 minutes.*  
Exceptionally attractive Tudor house of great character. 4 reception rooms, sun room, 2 cloakrooms, 2 bedrooms, 7 bedrooms, oil-fired central heating, double garage, delightful terraced garden and paddock. 3.8 acres in all. Also a pair of cottages for conversion. For sale as a whole or in two lots. ST. JOHN SMITH & SON, Uckfield, Sussex. Tel: (0825) 4111. SAVILLS, London Office. Tel: 01-499 8644.

## KENT

*East Grinstead 7 1/2 miles, Tunbridge Wells 9 miles.*  
Attractive single storey period cottage situated in a secluded rural position with an extensive range of buildings ideal for stabling, kennels or intensive farming. 2 reception rooms, 3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, garaging for 3 cars, garden, extensive range of traditional "Sussex" style outbuildings, including loose boxes, dog kennels and covered yards. About 2 acres. SAVILLS, London Office. Tel: 01-499 8644.

## DORSET

*Lulworth Cove 3 1/2 miles.*  
Traditional stone and cob-built properties in Dorset hamlet. Farmhouse, 2 cottages requiring modernisation and 5 barns for conversion to dwellings. For sale by Private Treaty as a whole or in Lots. SAVILLS, Wessex House, Wimborne, Dorset. Tel: (020125) 2212

## NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

*Northampton 10 miles, Daventry 5 miles.*  
Fine old rectory with outstanding views. 4 reception rooms, 6 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, self-contained flat, stables, garaging, garden and grounds. About 2 1/2 acres. For sale by Private Treaty. SAVILLS, 21 Horse Fair, Banbury, Oxfordshire. Tel: (0295) 2535.

## NORTH OXON Nr Great Tew

*Banbury 8 miles, Oxford 18 miles.*  
Well appointed Cotswold stone farmhouse in a superb south-facing position. 3 reception rooms, 6 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, central heating, small cottage, stabling, garaging, garden, and 2 paddocks. About 9 acres. A 3-bedroomed cottage also available. Offers around £80,000. SAVILLS, 21 Horse Fair, Banbury, Oxon. Tel: Banbury (0255) 3535.

## ESSEX—Felstead

*Dunmow 4 miles, Chelmsford 9 miles, Liverpool Street 35 minutes.*  
Fine period village house with lovely drawing room, dining room, study, 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, oil-fired central heating, beautiful gardens. About 1/2 acre. SAVILLS, 136 London Road, Chelmsford, Essex. Tel: (0245) 69311.

## NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

*Blakesley*  
*Northampton 13 miles, Banbury 14 miles.*  
Charming 17th century village property. Entrance hall, 3 bathrooms, 6 bedrooms, 3 reception rooms, central heating, extensive stabling and garaging. Attractive gardens and paddock. About 2 acres. For sale by private treaty. JACKSON-STOPS & STAFF, 20 Bridge Street, Northampton. Tel: (0604) 32951. SAVILLS, 21 Horse Fair, Banbury, Oxon. Tel: (0295) 3535.

# SAVILLS

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*Handwritten note:* Joseph ...

### What went wrong with Ulster's brave experiment

Belfast, May 28

Whatever the Northern Ireland Executive failed to do, it never lost the formal respect for that brave experiment it started six months ago, and which collapsed so suddenly just before two o'clock this afternoon. When Mr Brian Faulkner had returned from handling in his resignation to Mr Merlyn Rees, the 11 Protestant and Roman Catholic ministers rose to their feet around the Cabinet table at Stormont and shook hands. About half of them, including Mr Gerry Fitt, the Roman Catholic deputy to Mr Faulkner, were weeping openly.

Most of the ministers, taking the short-term, tactical political view, believe that it was the February general election that led to this. Northern Ireland had nothing to do with the issues which prompted Mr Heath to go to the country, but the "loyalists" took 11 of the province's 12 constituencies. From that date every loyalist politician could claim, however deviously, that the coalition was undemocratic, and in its final hours it was indeed ironically sustained by the very instruments that propped up Mr Faulkner's old Unionist government. Whitehall and the British Army.

Whitehall had good reason to believe in the Executive, not only because it was its only hope in Ulster but also because in six months the men in power at Stormont Castle came to respect each other's abilities. One senior civil servant was suggesting today that Ulster had never had such efficient men in the Cabinet. Mr John Hume, a Roman Catholic, struggled for months to bring to Ulster employment and industry which would, by the very nature of the population, benefit more Protestants than Catholics.

When the Catholic residents of Ardoyne in Belfast tried to squat in 60 houses, more than half of which were designated for Protestants, Mr Austin Currie, the Catholic Minister of Housing, talked and cajoled and bullied them out. It was a Protestant, Mr Basil McIvor, who as Minister of Education decided to push at last for integrated schooling.

But the flaw which the several ministers saw in their administration last February's election results may only have concealed a progressing cancer. For in spite of their results in the Assembly poll last summer, in spite of Mr Faulkner's and Mr Pitt's electoral victories then, they were by last month relying on their numerical superiority in the Assembly to carry the day. Mr Faulkner's men had no mandate to govern, Mr Wilson said they were the democratically elected administration in Northern Ireland and so they were, but Mr Faulkner's men had no mandate to govern, Mr Wilson said they were the democratically elected administration in Northern Ireland and so they were, but Mr Faulkner's men had no mandate to govern, Mr Wilson said they were the democratically elected administration in Northern Ireland and so they were...

### After Maalot can Israel still justify a policy of 'no surrender to terrorists'?

The truth is that from the beginning a break-in into the building had been prepared, and only because of the results a lame explanation was given.

—Ze'ev Shiff (one of Israel's top military correspondents), *Ha-Arutz*, etc., May 19.

"The Cabinet decided to accede to the demands of the terrorists and release 20 terrorists detained in Israel. ... We took this decision with a heavy heart."

—Golds Meir in the *Knesset*, May 23.

What actually happened in Maalot in Israel during that terrible 26th birthday of the state is still not very clear. The Hebrew press, of course, covered the episode in even greater detail than the European press, but many of the details seem to be mutually contradictory. The greatest contradictions concern the role of the French ambassador, the conditions which the terrorists posed for release of their hostages, and the time at which the Israeli government learnt those conditions.

Mrs Meir's version, given on Israel television on the evening of the tragedy, was that her government had agreed to negotiate through the intermediary of the French and Romanian ambassadors. But the code word by which these ambassadors were to be identified by the fedayeen did not come, and so there were no negotiations. At three o'clock the French ambassador went to Maalot, but was unable to make contact with the fedayeen. News then came from Bucharest that the ambassador would receive the code word only when the 23 detainees released from Israeli prisons arrived in Nicosia or Damascus. But it was already five o'clock and it was physically impossible to do it, since the fedayeen at Maalot categorically refused to extend the deadline fixed by their ultimatum, which was to expire at six o'clock.

In fact, the French ambassador, by his own account, did not arrive at Maalot until five o'clock—and this is corroborated by journalists who were on the spot. Much earlier than this, however, "from mid-day onwards", the journalists were told that he was there, and this was also announced on Israel radio. (*Le Monde*, May 17; *Ma'ariv*, May 16.)

Theodore Levitz in the *Evening Standard* even reported that "a grey-haired man in a dark suit" was seen at 3 pm, talking to the terrorists through an interpreter using a loud-speaker, and was understood to be the French Ambassador, General Gur, the Israeli Chief of Staff, or some other high official, referring apparently to a time earlier than 4.45: "The French Ambassador was there with us. The terrorists told him that if he would approach them without the code-word for which they had asked, they would shoot to kill him." (*Ma'ariv*, May 16.) Yet the ambassador himself, again confirmed by the correspondents on the spot, says that after his arrival at 5 o'clock it was the Israeli command which refused to let him try to talk to the fedayeen without the code word, on the grounds that it was too dangerous.

The only explanation for this contradiction which suggests itself is that earlier in the afternoon someone (presumably an Israeli) had impersonated the French Ambassador in an attempt to trick the terrorists into a negotiation, but this failed because the terrorists' plan did not allow for any negotiations until they received the code-word indicating that the released prisoners had reached Damascus.

There are also fairly clear indications that the Israeli authorities knew this perfectly well, long before five o'clock. Certainly it was made clear in the message from the PDFLP which was sent via the French embassies in Damascus and Tel Aviv and read to the Israeli cabinet by Mr Eban at 2.55 pm. But probably they knew even earlier than that.

According to the Israeli journalist Uri Dan, (*Ma'ariv*, May 16): "At 1.30 pm, four hours before the attack, the conditions were made finally clear to the French Embassy in Israel. The code word would be transmitted only after the Palestinians arrive in Damascus. The embassy immediately stated this fact to the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem, who replied that they already knew about it." (My italics.)

Better still, according to M Golan, the political correspondent of *Ha-Aretz* (May 17): "Not a single member of the Cabinet or of the Knesset Defence and Foreign Affairs Committee countenanced agreeing to this terrible demand." But this was at a time when, by her own earlier account, it was already physically impossible to comply with the PDFLP's demands. She omitted, however, to mention the earlier message sent via Paris and read to the Cabinet at 2.55 (when presumably it would still have been possible to comply). This made it clear that although half the children would have to board the aircraft, they would be allowed to get off again once the terrorists with the French ambassador and the Red Cross representative, and perhaps the Romanian ambassador, were on board. (In spite of this, according to *Ha-Aretz* of May 17, the Red Cross was not approached by the Israeli authorities at all.)

What conclusions can one draw from all this? Certainly none that in any way exonerate the Palestinian terrorists. Whether or not their conditions could have been met, the whole operation presupposed the willingness to spill the children's cold blood if Israel did not give in, and they must have known that the odds against Israel giving in were high. (Nor does the fact that the "children" were secondary school pupils in a cadet force training exercise make much more difference. They were unarmed, defenceless and below military age.) Also, the terrorists had committed several crimes before the siege even started: the killing of a young boy, the burning of a house, and the shooting of a man.

But is Ze'ev Shiff right in concluding that Israel never intended to make any concessions? Perhaps that is too simple. Probably at least some members of the government would have been willing to

release some prisoners if they could have been sure that the hostages would be released in return. (In fact, Israel has twice exchanged prisoners for hostages after hijackings, although in negotiations with Arab states rather than with the hijackers themselves.)

But equally obviously General Dayan and some of his subordinates were hoping to repeat their successful handling of the Sabena hijacking two years ago, when the terrorists were tricked and only one innocent person was killed. This would have atoned for the amazing security blunder by which troops were evacuated from Maalot two days before the tragedy, in spite of the known danger of terrorist attacks in the border area on May 15.

What is strange is that after the tragedy the Israelis continued to maintain that they had been willing to give in—thereby presumably encouraging the next lot of terrorists to think they have at least a chance of success, and largely nullifying Israel's traditional "no surrender" attitude.

Perhaps this has something to do with an opinion poll taken in Israel on the day of the drama, which showed 58.6 per cent in favour of surrender and only 16 per cent definitely against it. It seems that this time Israel's "tough line" was too tough even for the Israelis.

Edward Mortimer

### G K Chesterton: Poet with an historian's eye

Fifty-three years ago a small class of schoolboys in the Isle of Wight underwent what was, for two of them at least, an unforgettable exercise. They were required to learn by heart the following lines:

"When fishes flew and forests walked,  
And figs grew upon thorn,  
Some moment when the moon was blood,  
Then surely I was born."

With monstrous head and sickening cry,  
And ears like errant wings,  
The devil's walking parody  
On all four-footed things.

The tattered outlaw of the earth,  
Of ancient crooked will;  
Starve, scourge, deride me: I am dumb,  
I keep my secret still.

Fools! For I also had my hour;  
One far fierce hour and swart;  
There was a shout about my ears,  
And palms before my feet."

The poem was, of course, *The Donkey* and the author G. K. Chesterton, the centenary of whose birth falls today.

One of the schoolboys was Frank Milton, now the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate. The other was myself. We have both remained dedicated Chestertonians ever since. Of this more anon.

As an undergraduate I and several of my contemporaries shared Chesterton's political views. We wholly approved of his attacks on plutocracy. Like him, we were against the rich. But we did not believe in the Socialist solution which, as it then appeared, would concentrate all property in the hands of the State. So we became distributors. It was almost obligatory to patronize small, back-



"Lepanto" the satires ("Are they clinging to their crosses?") and the sheer expression of verbal enjoyment such as "Songs of the Oak". But even these last contain unforgettable lines, for example:—

"When the great Lover sails  
Love was kissed by Death at sea."  
Or these from "The Song of Quoodle"—

"The wind from winter forests,  
The scent of scented flowers,  
The breath of brides, adorning,  
The smell of snare and warning,  
The smell of Sunday mornings,  
God gave to us for ours."

Some of them (the verses) were, of course, of obvious political significance. We may perhaps infer that the Chestertonian attitude towards the Cadbury Press, for which he worked over several years, is summed up in the famous lines,

"'Tis, although an Oriental,  
Is a gentleman at least,  
Cocoa is a cad and coward  
Cocoa is a vulgar beast  
Cocoa is a vulgar beast  
Lying, crawling, cad and clown  
And may very well be grateful  
To the fool that takes him down."

Chesterton's verses cover almost the whole range of history. Even in the comic verse there is nearly always an historical reference, as in "A Ballade of a Suicide."

"Prince, I can hear the tramp of  
Germans,  
The tumbrels rolling up the  
terrible way,  
Even today your royal head may fall—  
I think I will not hang myself today."

There have been few successful imitators. One of the select company is Sir Frank Milton. Several years ago a weekly journal offered a prize for the Chestertonian poem beginning "When Parliament met on Parliament Hill." This was Sir Frank's winning contribution:

"When Parliament met on Parliament Hill  
At the start of an aeon of pain  
They filled the ponds with bitter  
curse of gold and old  
And freed men's hearts from the  
curse of gold and old  
But three men wept and their eyes  
were cold  
And the name of the third was Cain.  
Great Cobbet rode down to the  
Commons House.  
It shivered with pain and fear  
Where the hucksters work in the  
dark like mice.  
And the poor are sold at the  
market price  
But the Hampstead heights are a  
paradise  
That is sanctified with beer.  
The end is a tale too good to be  
told  
And a sight too big to see  
For man goes home without  
paying his bill  
And Dives falls from a window  
sill  
When Parliament meets on Parli-  
ament Hill  
Because the world is free."

I would offer one word of advice to any Times readers who are summoned to appear at Bow Street. They should take with them their copy of Chesterton's poems. There is sure to be an appositive quotation. If the worse comes to the worst they can console themselves, as they descend the stairs, with the lines,

"For there is good news yet to  
hear and fine things to be seen  
Before we go to Paradise by way  
of East Green."

If, however, they are acquitted or discharged they should remind the officer in charge of the immortal lines,

"And a voice valedictory  
Who is for liberty?  
Who goes home?"

Then they can catch a growler or a hansom to Northing Hill.

Dingle Foot

"The human race, to which so many of my readers belong, has been playing at children's games from the beginning, and will probably do it till the end, which is a nuisance for the few people who grow up"

A reader, tired of luxury holidays, is not asking what we knew about socially useful holidays. After many telephone calls my reporter discovered that there are agencies all over Britain and the Continent who will welcome the socially-minded with open arms and free food and lodging, though not with free travel tickets.

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### The Times Diary

How to do something useful on holiday

attend work study camps where they might, for instance, help a housing association by doing renovating and redecorating work, and at the same time study community problems.

IVS volunteers have to pay their own way to camps, but food and lodging is free. More information: 01-624 8963.

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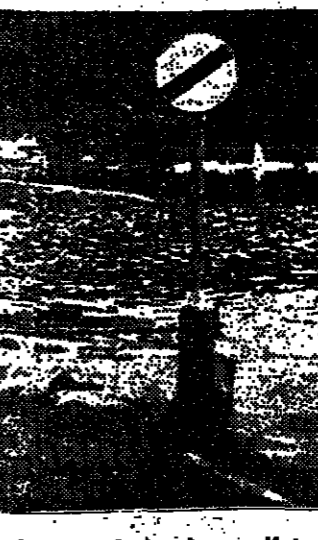
They operate a three to four-week programme—helping to run play groups, painting and restoring churches and the like—and they have centres in England, Finland, France, Ireland, Italy, Holland, Norway, Austria, Sweden and Switzerland. Volunteers get reduced fares and they pay 80p a day for food and shelter. The Council will take people from all denominations. Further information: 01-730 9611.

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The Ockendon Venture. This organization looks after wayward children (among them, children who refuse to go to school). They take volunteers (over 18) each year to help run



Today's road sign is mystifying rather than confusing or ambiguous. Photographed by Dr H. D. Juler at the Upper Dart Ferry in Dartmouth, it presumably can apply only to Hoverscraft.

their homes. Everyone mucks in, each taking turns to cook, to clean and to attend to the gardens. Volunteers have to put in a minimum of three weeks' work; their fares are paid and they get £2 a week. Further information: 04862 2012/3.

Quaker Work Camps. About 10 camps a year are established in Britain by the Quakers. They last for between two and three weeks, and volunteers (minimum age 16) help with social service projects by looking after mentally handicapped children. They also do conservation and reclamation work—such as picking grass on slag heaps. Volunteers have to pay their fares, but food and lodging is free. Further information: 01-387 3600.

Have a good time.

Wheels

London looked on in amusement as a column of about 40 delegates to a bicycle and pedestrian planning seminar spun through the city on a cycle tour yesterday. Among those not amused, though, were drivers caught in resultant traffic jams.

My reporter, unsuitably clad for his unexpected assignment,

was wearing a dark suit with his trousers tucked into his socks. He joined the international group on their exhilarating but sometimes hair-raising ride from Kensington to Fleet Street.

It was all to popularize the bicycle, promote cyclists' interests and preserve our environment from the polluting effects of too many motor cars. The delegates have been attending a joint seminar of the British Cycling Bureau and the Metropolitan Association of Urban Designers and Environmental Planners Inc, an American organization.

It was a mixed group. Some were in business suits or sports clothes. A few women had come prepared for the rain (which, luckily, never came) in raincoats and trousers and unsuitable shoes. You could spot the professionals a mile off.

For instance, there was Peter Knolly, a professional touring cyclist, resident and athlete in scarlet jersey, navy black shorts and cycling shoes.

Through Hyde Park the went, where a lady cut a come a little too finely to please cab-driver, whose reaction car not be repeated here.

Along the Bayswater Road it wards Connaught Street, where a man from Calgary whizzed through a red light because he did not see it.

A man working outside removals firm shouted "What's this, then? The Mill Race? But the natives work for the most part from rain. Though a bus driver almost ran him into the pavement in Regent Street and an Evening News representative hit cyclist my reporter and his co-traveler made it safely to Fleet Street But he does not plan to take up seriously.

Climax to the merry prima campaign in Arkansas, when Governor Dale Bumpers is trying to unseat William Fulbright from the Senate.

Bumpers rode a white horse a rodeo. Fulbright scoffed at it as "a saviour on a white horse and added this aphorism: "politician who devotes his one gles to being popular is short changing his constituents."

PH



### What went wrong with Ulster's brave experiment

Belfast, May 28  
Whatever the Northern Ireland Executive failed to do, it never lost the formal respect for that brave experiment it started six months ago, and which collapsed so suddenly just before two o'clock this afternoon. When Mr Brian Faulkner had returned from handing in his resignation to Mr Merlyn Rees, the 11 Protestant and Roman Catholic ministers rose to their feet around the Cabinet table at Stormont and shook hands. About half of them, including Mr Gerry Fitt, the Roman Catholic deputy to Mr Faulkner, were weeping openly.

Most of the ministers, taking the short-term, tactical political view, believe that it was the February general election that did for them. Northern Ireland had nothing to do with the issues which prompted Mr Heath to go to the country, but the loyalists took 11 of the province's 12 constituencies. From that date, every loyalist politician could claim, however dubious, that the coalition was undemocratic, and in its final hours it was indeed ironically sustained by the very instrument that had brought Mr Faulkner's government to Whitehall and the British Army.

Whitehall had good reason to believe in the Executive, not only because it was its only hope in Ulster but also because in six months the men in power at Stormont Castle came to respect each other's abilities. One senior civil servant was suggesting today that Ulster had never had such efficient men in the Cabinet. Mr John Hume, a Roman Catholic, struggled for months to bring to Ulster employment and industry which would, by the very nature of the population, benefit more Protestants than Catholics.

When the Catholic residents of Ardoyne in Belfast tried to squat in 60 houses, more than half of which were designated for Protestants, Mr Austin Currie, the Catholic Minister of Housing, talked and cajoled and "bullied them out. It was a Protestant, Mr Basil McEvoy, who as Minister of Education decided to push at last for integrated schooling.

But the flaw which the several ministers saw in their administration—last February's election results—may only have concealed a progressing cancer. For in spite of their results in the Assembly poll last summer, in spite of Mr Faulkner's and Mr Pitt's electoral victories then, they were by last month relying on the Assembly rather than their popular support in Northern Ireland for their claim to govern. Mr Wilson said they were the democratically elected administration in Northern Ireland and so they were, but Mr Faulkner's men had no mandate last summer for the Sunningdale agreement, for power-sharing and for the Council of Ireland.

One of the ministers who resigned today, Mr Leslie Mervell, had specifically stated before that election that he would not tolerate the Council of Ireland and last week he and his colleagues had to water down the council proposal because even the Faulkner Unionist backbenchers in the Assembly would not wear it any more. It was, of course, too late and by then the brave attempt to bridge the unbridgeable—to associate grass roots Unionism with the aspirations of a united Ire-

land—was already doomed to failure. Looking back, at least one ex-minister was wondering this evening whether if the loyalists had been invited to Sunningdale in December, the present difficulties might never have arisen. Could Mr Paisley, or Mr West, or Mr Craig ever have sat in power with Catholics who were ultimately dedicated to a united country? It is hard to imagine, but their exclusion from that conference, at the insistence of Mr Cosgrave, the Irish Prime Minister (a largely unknown fact and in present circumstances a damning one) made the cries of a dictatorship directed at the Executive all the louder.

The parties who held power lacked sensitivity, of course. They leaked information about each other and they flirited with outsiders. Mr Faulkner only broke away from the Orangemen when there was nothing left for him in the old Unionist Party, and the Social Democratic and Labour Party members spent too much of their time in Dublin. Even on Sunday night, Mr Devlin and Mr Cooper were driving past each other in the Republic to Irish Ministers of their fears and anger. When they travelled back next day, a mob of howling loyalists prevented them even from returning to their own country. Mr Roy Bradford, for whose resignation Mr Hume was calling at the weekend, was distressed by many of his own colleagues at the end because he was freelanding mediation with the strikers. He said virtually nothing in that final Executive meeting this afternoon. He had persistently argued that the loyalists should be listened to and that they possessed immense power. His satisfaction is that he was right.

While the Executive may have lacked sensitivity, the British Government must have acted at times to have lacked it even more. Mr Wilson's broadcast on Saturday night has created a loathing among loyalists which was not there before. This morning the farmers demonstrating against the Government's plan to allow their tractors were sponges pinned to their jackets, the most aptly contemptuous reply to Mr Wilson's financial *faux pas* about "spongers". The Executive bitterly regretted that speech. Mr Faulkner, one of his colleagues said today, did not at first know how to address his province afterwards. Can a British Government now stomach a renegotiated settlement with the men Mr Wilson described as "bully boys"?

Mr Oliver Napier, the ex-Minister for Law Reform, was predicting tonight the possibility of a Protestant fascist state in Ulster. Dr Conor Cruise Uhlmann, the Republic's Minister for Posts and Telecommunications, suggested in his book *States of Ireland* last year that this could be an outcome of the failure of moderation in the north. There are civil servants at Stormont who privately think the same. But they would also acknowledge that in its final days the Executive, with the blessing of the British, was still not the "consensus" government of which they dreamed. Power-sharing excluded, the loyalists are about at the chance of those right-wing Protestants, the coalition had a larger minority against it when it fell today than did the old Stormont government in the final days of its power two years ago.

Robert Fisk

## After Maalot can Israel still justify a policy of 'no surrender to terrorists'?

"The truth is that from the beginning a break-in into the building had been prepared, and only because of the results a lame 'Ze'ev Shiff (one of Israel's top military correspondents). Ha'aretz, May 19.  
"The Cabinet decided to accede to the demands of the terrorists and release 20 terrorists detained in Israel. . . . We took this decision with a heavy heart."  
—Golda Meir in the Knesset, May 20

What actually happened in Maalot in Israel during that terrible 26th birthday of the state is still not very clear. The Hebrew press, of course, covered the episode in even greater detail than the European press, but many of the details seem to be mutually contradictory. The greatest contradictions concern the role of the French ambassador, the conditions which the terrorists posed for release of their hostages, and the time at which the Israel government learnt those conditions.

Mrs Meir's version, given on Israel television on the evening of the tragedy, was that her government "had agreed to negotiate through the intermediaries of the French and Roman Catholic ambassadors. But the code word by which these ambassadors were to be identified was the fedayeen did not come, and so there were no negotiations. At three o'clock the French ambassador went to Maalot, but was unable to make contact with the fedayeen." News then came from Bucharest that the code word would be received by the code word only when the 23

detainees released from Israeli prisons arrived in Nicosia or Damascus. But it was already five o'clock and it was physically impossible to do it, since the fedayeen had impermissibly refused to extend the deadline fixed by their ultimatum, which was to expire at six o'clock. . . .  
In fact, the French ambassador, by his own account, did not arrive at Maalot until five o'clock—and this is corroborated by journalists who were on the spot. Much earlier than this, however, "from mid-day onwards", the journalists were told that he was there, and this was also announced on Israeli radio. (*Le Monde*, May 17; *McAra*, May 16.)

Theodore Levitt in the *Evening Standard* even reported that "a grey-haired man in a dark suit" was seen at 3 pm, talking to the terrorists through an interpreter using a loud-speaker, and was understood to be the French Ambassador. General Gur, the Israeli Chief of Staff, also said on the night of May 15, referring apparently to a time earlier than 4.45: "The French Ambassador was there with us. The terrorists told him that if he would approach them without the code-word for which they had asked, they would shoot to kill him." (*McAra*, May 16.) Yet the ambassador himself, again confirmed by the correspondents on the spot, says that after the Israeli command which refused to let him try to talk to the fedayeen without the code-

word, on the grounds that it was too dangerous.

The only explanation for these contradictions which suggests itself is that earlier in the afternoon someone (presumably an Israeli) had impermissibly attempted to trick the terrorists into a negotiation, but this failed because the terrorists' plan did not allow for any negotiations until they received the code-word indicating that the released prisoners had reached Damascus.

There are also fairly clear indications that the Israeli authorities knew this perfectly well, long before five o'clock. Certainly it was made clear in the message from the PDELP which was sent via the French embassies in Damascus and Tel Aviv, and was read to the Israeli cabinet by Mr Eban at 2.55 pm. But probably they knew even earlier than that.

According to the Israeli journalist Uri Dan, (*McAra*, May 16): "At 1.30 pm, four hours before the attack, the conditions were made finally clear to the French Embassy in Israel: The code word would be transmitted only after the Palestinians arrive in Damascus. The embassy immediately stated this fact to the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem, who replied that they already knew about it." (*My Italics*.)

Better still, according to M. Golan, the political correspondent of *Ha'aretz* (May 17): "The Government knew since early morning the conditions posed by the terrorists in

Maalot, namely, that the code word would be transmitted to the French or Romanian ambassador after the release of the 26 terrorists imprisoned in Israel. But the government decided not to accept this condition because they judged that after the release of the 26 prisoners the terrorists in Maalot would pose new conditions including the release of more terrorists."  
Ironically enough this report appeared on the same page of *Ha'aretz* as the account of a press conference given by General Gur in Jerusalem at which he said: "The terrorists stated only at 3.30 pm that the code word would only arrive from Damascus after the arrival of the 26 prisoners."  
It had been known earlier, an alternative plan could have been made."

The final contradiction concerns what would have happened to the schoolchildren if the terrorists' conditions had been met. In her Knesset speech Mrs Meir referred to the message which arrived via Bucharest at 5.05, and according to which half the schoolchildren would have had to fly with the terrorists "to an unspecified Arab country".

"Not a single member of the Cabinet or of the Knesset Defence and Foreign Affairs Committee countenanced agreeing to this terrible demand." But this was at a time when, by her own earlier account, it was already "physically impossible" to comply with the

PDELP's demands. She omitted, however, to mention the earlier message sent via Paris and read to the Cabinet at 2.55 (when presumably it would still have been possible to comply). This made it clear that although half the children would have to board the aircraft, they would be allowed to get off again once the terrorists with "the French ambassador and the Red Cross representative, and perhaps the Romanian ambassador", were on board. (In spite of this, according to *Ha'aretz* of May 17, the Red Cross was not approached by the Israeli authorities at all.)

What conclusions can one draw from all this? Certainly none at all, in any way except that the Palestinian terrorists, whether or not their conditions could have been met, the whole operation presupposed their willingness to kill the children in cold blood if Israel did not give in, and they must have known that the odds against Israel giving in were high. (Nor does the fact that the "children" were secondary school pupils on a cadet force training exercise make much more difference. They were unarmed, defenceless, and below military age.) Also, the terrorists had committed several gratuitous murders before the siege even started.

But is Ze'ev Shiff right in concluding that Israel never intended to make any concessions? Perhaps that is too simple. Probably at least some members of the government would have been willing to

release some prisoners if the code word had been sent that hostages would be released. (In fact, Israel twice exchanged prisoners hostages after hijacking although in negotiations with Arab states rather than with the hijackers themselves.)

But equally obviously Ze'ev Shiff and some of his supporters were hoping to repeat their successful handling of the Sabena hijacking a year ago, when the terrorists were tricked and only one in cent person was killed. It would have stoned for amazing security blunder which troops were evacuated from Maalot two days before the tragedy, in spite of known danger of terrorist attacks in the border area May 15.

What is strange is that at the tragedy the Israelis continued to maintain that they had been willing to give in thereby presumably encouraging the next lot of terrorists think they have at least a chance of success, and large nullifying Israel's tradition "no surrender" attitude.

"Perhaps this has something to do with an opinion taken on Israel on the day the dramatic hijacking 5 per cent in favour of the Syrians and only 16 per cent definitely against. It seems that this is Israel's 'tough line' was too tough for the Israelis.

Edward Mortim

## G K Chesterton: Poet with an historian's eye

'The human race, to which so many of my readers belong, has been playing at children's games from the beginning, and will probably do it till the end, which is a nuisance for the few people who grow up'



"Lepanto" the satires ("Are they clinging to their crosses, F. E. Smith?" and the sheer expressions of verbal enjoyment such as "Song of the Oak". But even these last contain unforgettable lines, for example:—  
"When the great Lovers sailors  
Was kissed by Death at sea."  
Or these from "The Song of Quoodle"—  
"The wind from winter forests,  
The scent of scented flowers,  
The breath of brides, adorning,  
The small of snags and warms,  
The smell of Sunday morning,  
God gave to us for ours.

Some of them (the verses) were of course of obvious political significance. We may perhaps infer that the Chestertonian attitude towards the Cadbury Press, for which he worked six or seven years, is summed up in the famous lines:  
"Yes, although an Oxford,  
Is a gentleman at least.  
Cocoa is a cat and coward  
Cocoa is a vulgar war, and  
Cocoa is a dull, disloyal,  
Lying, crawling, cad and clown  
And may very well be grateful  
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"When Parliament met on Parliament Hill  
At the end of an aeon of pain  
They freed the ponds with bit  
And tired men's hearts from  
curse of gold  
But three men wept and their  
eyes were red  
And the name of the third  
Cafu.  
Great Cobbett rode down to  
Commons House  
It shivered with pain and fear  
Where the hucksters work in  
dark like mice  
And the poor art sold at  
market price  
But the Hampstead heights are  
paradise  
That is sanctified by beer.

The end is a rale too good to  
told  
And a sight too big to see  
For man goes home with  
paying his bill  
Dives falls from a window  
still  
When Parliament meets on Parli  
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Because the world is free."

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who are summoned to appear  
Down Street. They should  
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lines,  
"For there is good news yet  
to hear and fine things to be seen  
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of Kensal Green."  
If, however, they are acqui  
retired or discharged they should  
reimind the officer in charge of  
the immortal lines,  
"And a voice valedictory  
Who is for victory?  
Who goes home?  
Who goes home?"

Then they can catch  
grozier or a hansom to Notting  
Hill.

Dingle Foot

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## The Times Diary

### How to do something useful on holiday

A reader, tired of luxury holidays, wrote about what we knew about socially useful holidays. After many telephone calls my reporter discovered that there are agencies all over Britain and the Continent who will welcome the socially-minded with open arms and free food and lodging, though not with free travel tickets.

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Concordia. Open to anyone between the ages of 16 and 50. Work consists of picking fruit, carrying out conservation work in forests and helping the aged and the young. Volunteers pay their own fares and in some cases have to pay nominal fees for food and accommodation. At the same time some of them—those who help with the wine harvest in Spain, for instance—get paid. Period of work is two to four weeks. Further information: 01-629 3367.

The National Conservation Corps. This organization has to do with the upkeep of such things as nature reserves and village ponds. It has centres in Cornwall, Devon, Yorkshire and Dorset where people over 16 can help and back and drain a plant. They can work for from one week to eight weeks. They have to pay their way to the centres and are asked to pay 25p a day towards their keep. The charge is voluntary, but most people say further information: 01-722 7112.

The Ockenfield Venture. This organization looks after wayward children (among them, children who refuse to go to school). They take volunteers (over 18) each year to help run

was wearing a dark suit with his trousers tucked into his socks. He joined the international group on their exhilarating but sometimes hair-raising ride from Kensington to Fleet Street.

It was all to popularize the bicycle, promote cyclists' interests and preserve our environment from the pollution effects of too many motor cars. The delegates have been attending a joint seminar of the British Cycling Bureau and the Metropolitan Association of Urban Designers and Environmental Planners Inc, an American organization.

It was a mixed group. Some were in business suits or sport clothes. A few women had coats prepared for the rain (which, luckily, never came) in rain coats and trousers and unsuitable shoes. You could spot it professionals a mile off.

For instance, there was Peter Knightley, professional touring cyclist, resplendent and athletic in scarlet jersey, navy blue shorts and cycling shoes.

Through Hyde Park they went, where a lady cut a corn a little too finely to please a doctor, whose reaction could not be repeated here. Then along the Epsom Road towards Connaught Street, where a man from Calgary whizzed through a red light because he did not see it.

A man working outside removed a "Ern" sign. "What's this, then? The Mi Race?" But the natives were for the most part friendly. Through Regent Street and an Eterni News representative hit trouble my reporter and his co-cyclist made it safely to Fleet Street. But he does not plan to take up seriously.

Glimpses to the merry prinz regent in Arkansas, who Governor Dally Bumbers is trying to unseat William Fulbright from the Senate, came with Bumbers rode a white horse a rodeo. Fulbright scoffed at as "a snigger on a white horse" and added this aphorism: "Politicians who dabble in their being popular is sho changing his constituents."

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### Wheels

London looked on in amazement as a column of about 40 delegates to a bicycle and pedestrian planning seminar spun through the city on a cycle tour yesterday. Among the amateurs, though, were drivers caught in resultant traffic jams.

My reporter, unsuitably clad for his unexpected assignment,

Castle  
Dingle Foot  
The Lancas  
Operating World



## Irs Castle causes casting of plans

**by John Brunett**

In general, the companies devised set-ups suitable for recognition for the manual employees—not for the most part, providing ambitious benefits, but nevertheless laying a valuable foundation on which to build in the future. For small employers, a number of centralized schemes—bringing a number of unconnected employers under the same arrangements—were being instituted. Some of these were initiated by national or local bodies such as the Confederation of British Industries, British Institute of Management and chambers of commerce.

The insurance companies' reaction follows closely the order of priorities they had set themselves, contrary to the picture often painted by some politicians. The main preoccupation is organizational and administrative, and falls under two broad headings: how to cope with the task of advising employers and changing schemes; and how to restructure their contracts and administrative systems to meet the new situation.

In theory, insurance companies ought to be little worried by the difficulties of advising their policyholders, since the responsibility for deciding what to do falls on the scheme administrator. In practice, however, because this is such a complicated area, most employers—and indeed, most brokers advising them—lean heavily on their insurers.

Work was well advanced towards revising arrangements to fit in with the new requirements. A good proportion of employers had been told of the broad implications even before the full details of official requirements were known, and

since the publication over the past two or three months of the detailed administrative and structural rules laid down by the Occupational Pension Board, firm decisions were being taken by an increasing number of companies.

It was the delay in issuing these details which had prevented any earlier definite commitment by managers and in particular made it impossible for them to get ahead with the mechanics of applying for recognition certificates.

Remembering that employees had to be given two months' notice of intention to apply for a certificate, it is scarcely surprising that no certificate had yet been issued. It is incorrect to infer, as Mrs Castle appears to have done, that no real progress had been made with the recognition work.

Now all this work must be not exactly undone, but redirected. The changes necessary to the rules to comply with the preservation requirements have to be disentangled from the recognition changes. The former must go ahead; the latter will be dropped.

There is more to it than that, though. The rate of contribution was under review, primarily with an eye to securing minimum benefits with adequate financial backing to satisfy the Social Security Act's standards. Now there are no standards, and employers may revert to the principles they have adopted hitherto; but since there are still to be additional liabilities on schemes as a result of the preservation rules, it is appropriate in many cases to review the financial arrangements as well.

Package plans, whether on general offer for individual employers or devised specially for a centralized scheme, have generally been devised with the recognition requirements in mind. Some of them have involved extensive restructuring of administrative systems to ensure that benefits are constantly updated in relation to total PAYE earnings, within the limits to come for social security purposes.

It is likely that almost all of these plans will be abandoned. Most are based on the "money purchase" principle, which means that the contribution is fixed and the benefits arising are whatever those contributions buy.

All the indications are that this sort of basis will not be acceptable once Mrs Castle rewrites the legislation on this subject. Men and women will have to be given the same benefits, as indeed has been the normal practice in most occupational pension schemes, the employer making up the difference in cost.

## London maintains its reputation in a difficult world

**by John Gaselee**

The insurance industry is becoming much more scientific in its outlook, and more skill is being brought to bear on its operations. Nevertheless, in many areas insurers are prepared to write risks in connection with new technological developments for which there may have been little or no past experience, with only their own judgment to go on.

When the very large crude oil carriers were first introduced, in late 1966, there was a spate of serious explosions. This was an expensive period for insurers, since the explosions were unexplained, and there was no means of telling whether they would continue.

On the other hand, when the aviation industry introduced the first wide-body jets, safety experience was much better than underwriters had expected with the result that there has been an extremely sharp drop in the premiums charged for these aircraft.

While these are obvious examples of insurers facing risks about which they had little or no knowledge, the pace of modern development is such that methods of manufacture and techniques are changing the whole time, and often insurers are unaware of the extent of the changes or of their significance.

The trend towards larger units, particularly marked on the sea and in the air, but also very much a factor in industry, results in a concentration of risk in one area, rather than a larger number of smaller units— which would be much more satisfactory from the underwriting point of view.

The estimated fire wastage figure for 1973 rose by 65 per cent compared with the figure for 1972 and it was particularly significant that there were 11 fires estimated as costing more than £1m each, compared with four in 1972. Also, there were nearly three times as many fires in the range of £50,000 to £1m, compared with 1972.

While the whole aim of insurance is to spread the burden of claims over all policyholders, insurers are writing increasingly to charge more equitable premiums, based on the estimated risk involved. In fire insurance, the aim has been to try to assess risks much more accurately than in the past, and to allocate policyholders to groups, so that ideally each group will show a modest profit.

**Slightly lower premiums**

Motor insurance has become increasingly competitive, with individual insurers trying to isolate easily identifiable groups of motorists paying higher rates of premium than are justified. These groups can then be offered insurance at slightly lower rates.

The fact that not all schoolteachers or bank managers may be perfect drivers does not matter very much. Experience as a whole has shown that school teachers and bank managers generally have a better claims record than, say, journalists or professional entertainers.

While insurers have become more scientific in their rating, where this has been possible, many of their larger clients have also been having a close look at the question of insurance. In one way or another many large and not so large companies are now making their own arrangements, although a different name may be employed.

Basically, the idea is to look closely at risks and to see where they can be retained, which can be run satisfactorily by the company itself, and which should be insured in the commercial market. A variety of different methods are being used, although for various reasons there has been no great expansion in Britain of insurance companies owned by large industrial companies primarily to insure the risks of those companies.

The whole idea of this close look at insurance has been to make overall savings, where possible. Naturally, this has had the effect of curtailing profitability for insurance companies in certain areas. Furthermore, there has been a tendency for the risk to be transferred to the market, where possible. This is particularly marked in the marine and aviation markets. In many cases, insurers are writing risks in the almost certain knowledge that the business will be subject to an underwriting loss at the end of the day.

But for an insurer to refuse to write the renewal of a fleet in which he has had an interest for many years might well result in there not being the opportunity to write it over. Premium rates have risen—as they will—when the more competitive elements in the market discover how expensive their attitude to underwriting is proving to be.

At the moment, there are certain underwriters throughout the world writing direct business at comparatively low rates of premium and then reinsuring the bulk of that business elsewhere. Bearing in mind the overriding commission earned on the reinsurance,

the effective premium earned on the line actually retained can be much higher than that charged to the insured.

Although in some areas insurers look upon the London rate of premium as a figure to undercut, the London market still has an excellent reputation throughout the world, not only for judgement and skills but also in straight terms of capacity.

For many types of special risks, the London market is second to none. War of reinsurance, cover against risks, cover for major construction risks, and so on are likely to be re-acted in the London market and very largely written in it as well.

For many of the major risks throughout the world, reinsurance is undertaken either wholly in the London market or jointly with other insurers. As various countries expand their own insurance markets there is a tendency for the direct business to come to London.

Nevertheless, many domestic insurers cannot obtain more than a fairly small proportion of many risks, and there is a substantial outward flow of reinsurance. In view of the expert guidance and advice that can be given by London insurers, much of this business comes to London.

In the Lloyd's market, premium income is now running at well over £700m a year. Three-quarters of this originates outside Britain. About half comes from the United States and Canada, and the rest from a very wide area, since Lloyd's policies are written in nearly 300 different currencies.

The insurance industry makes a substantial contribution to the country's invisible exports. The part played by brokers is significant, since in terms of premium income alone, about £1,000m a year is brought to the London market from overseas by insurance brokers.

Naturally, claims and expenses, together with outward reinsurance premiums, must be deducted from that figure to arrive at the net contribution to the balance of payments, but it gives some idea of the scale of operations of British insurance brokers handling international business.

A number of insurers, and many more brokers, prefer to concentrate on smaller business at home, feeling that it is possible to maintain a greater control over it, apart from the fact that competition may not be quite so intense, and the claims ratio may be better.

There appears to be plenty of scope for selling permanent health insurance in the future since few people protect their earning power in the event of being laid up as a result of accident or sickness over a long period.

While the self-employed might appear to be the best prospects for this insurance, there is the drawback that premiums have to be paid from net income and, after benefits have been received for a full fiscal year, they count for tax purposes as investment income. Thus the self-employed suffer at both ends.

Most life offices that write pensions business are at full strength as a result of the Social Security Act. About nine out of 10 occupational pensions schemes already in force are having to be written mainly to the smaller organizations than, in the past, have had no pension scheme at all.

Although there are strong arguments in favour of employers having their own schemes that can provide worthwhile benefits and give flexibility, present indications are that there will be a plenty of members at the outset for the state reserve scheme, which is really intended as a fallback giving modest benefits.

**Market waiting to be tapped**

Certainly there is a considerable degree of underinsurance in Britain, and there is a substantial market waiting to be tapped. With small business, much more attention is being paid to handling costs and to the methods of marketing that are employed.

These two areas are becoming increasingly important as it becomes apparent that it is possible to handle relatively low premium insurance on a high volume basis to the satisfaction of all concerned. To keep down costs, it is important that as far as possible this insurance should be handled on a mass production basis. Once too much individual attention has to be given to each risk, administrative costs are likely to rise sharply.

It can be argued that on the life side there is considerable scope for further expansion, since most family members have much less life insurance than they really need. Certainly, the life insurance industry as a whole notches up fresh records for new business each year. However, there are not always significant when inflation and the growing num-

## Case of the small man has encouraged review of costs

Many insurers feel that, from a claims point of view, it is more satisfactory to provide cover for private individuals than for the multi-million pound risks. The great advantage of dealing with individuals is that there is a really wide spread of risk, so that there is unlikely to be a major catastrophe—unless there is extensive flooding or particularly serious storm damage over a very wide area. There is also the attraction to insurers that individuals are not in such a strong bargaining position as large industrial and commercial organizations.

The real difficulty for insurers in selling to the most consumer is the high administrative costs. To some extent the cost of handling a policy can be much the same almost irrespective of the premium paid. As a result, with small premium policies a comparatively high proportion of the premium is absorbed by administrative expenses and does not go into the pool to pay the claims of other policyholders.

Over the past few years insurers have been anxious to cut their administrative costs and they have been looking carefully at the duplication of work in the past. All too often, when business has been placed by a broker, both the company and the broker have been undertaking much the same work. Both have had to be paid for this work, and it has been the consumer who has had to pay.

There is now a variety of different schemes in force aimed at simplifying administrative procedures and cutting duplication of work. One major motor insurer has a subsidiary company that aims, as far as possible, to deal direct with policyholders. While policyholders may be introduced in the first place through brokers, thereafter dealings are direct with the head office of the insurance company, and even the branch network of the group is not greatly involved. Because the broker is relieved of much of the handling work, the company pays a lower rate of commission than it would otherwise do; and, by centralizing its own operations it can help to keep down unit costs.

Policy preparation has been simplified in several ways. Many insurance brokers have been given underwriting authority (within limits) by insurers, and sometimes policies can be completed on the spot, so that a client can walk out of a broker's office with his policy.

In the main, brokers have responded enthusiastically to being given this greater authority. It is often more convenient for them to issue a policy rather than to send instructions to the company. Lloyd's brokers have pioneered the idea of non-

Lloyd's brokers dealing direct with motor syndicates on all day-to-day matters. The Lloyd's broker simply effects the introduction, but is still liable to the syndicate for premiums. Since the Lloyd's broker is not involved in the day-to-day business only a relatively low rate of brokerage is paid, with the bulk of the brokerage allowed by underwriters going to the non-Lloyd's broker who is the intermediary between the motorist and underwriters. J.G.

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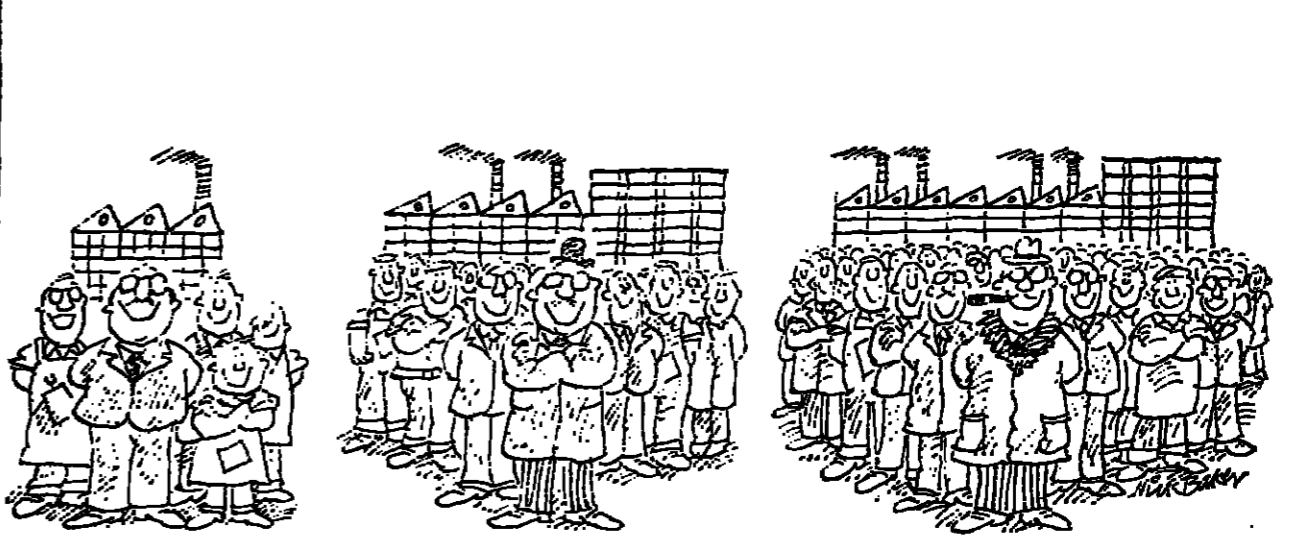
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BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE

## Guaranteed income and growth bonds under attack

by Margaret Stone

One of the most predictable items in Mr Healey's first Budget was the attack on guaranteed income and growth bonds. It is hard to believe that these forms of investment were devised as recently as 1969; and by any criteria they were an outstanding marketing success. It is estimated that sales in the 12 months preceding the Budget were in the order of £500m.

It was their success which led to the first waves of attack. The building society movement in particular had been campaigning hard to get some of the bonds' privileges removed because of the inroads they were making into the societies' traditional source of funds.

With hindsight, it does seem the societies' criticism that the bonds were milking funds from building societies was justified: there has been a marked upturn in building society net receipts since the Budget which must in part be attributed to the immediate cessation of bond sales after the budget changes.

Alongside the self-interested arguments against income bonds put forward by rival savings institutions there was perhaps the more fundamental criticism that

income and growth bonds in some way exploited life assurance tax concessions over and above the original purpose for which they were granted.

Income bonds, the more popular of the two, were made up of a mixture of term and deferred annuities to provide a high tax income, much of it tax free, and a return of capital at the end of the term which was not subject to basic rate tax. Growth bonds were deferred annuities with an option to take cash at the end of the term—it worked out at approximately double the original investment—which again was not chargeable as far as basic rate taxpayers were concerned.

There was a third reason why the Government, and the Conservative administration before it, was anxious to kill off income bonds in their original form. A few of the newer life offices had been running into severe financial difficulties as a result of their income bond activities.

Earlier bonds issued with a lower yield were being cancelled by bondholders who wished to switch into higher yielding bonds and some insurance companies were finding it difficult to meet the surrender values attached to early cancellations. A major failure was

avoided but it was a risk that everyone was anxious to minimize—and the easiest way was to ban future sales of income bonds.

It had been widely expected that the 1973 Budget would include steps against income bonds, and it was generally understood that it was only because of the lack of time to work out the appropriate measures that income bonds remained unscathed last year. However, it did mean that when Mr Healey was thrust into office with only three weeks to prepare his Budget that this was one non-political subject for which the plans were already drawn up.

There were several ways in which the impact of income and growth bonds could have been minimized. One idea widely canvassed in insurance circles was that the tax basis of all annuity funds could have been altered by disallowing the capital content of the funds against income tax. This would have altered the basic calculations used to arrive at the tax-free status of annuity funds. But although logical, its effects would have been wider ranging as it would have covered all annuity business.

Instead the Chancellor concentrated on the deferred annuity element of income bonds. Although all the

taxing device is likely to hit the linked insurance industry more than traditional life insurance.

Linked insurances are basically policies linked to equities, property (or a mixture as in managed bonds) and building society shares. With all these, the protection element of the life assurance part of the contract plays a subsidiary role to investment attractions, and the policy value is linked directly to the value of the underlying portfolio—unlike conventional assurance.

In these circumstances many investors could, in a rising market, find it profitable to stop their unlinked policies and take the profit. In future this course of action will be circumscribed by the new regulations.

Another form of investment which could be particularly hard hit is the building society insurance-linked policies. The combination of the tax-paid income from societies coupled with the tax relief of premiums led to a high gross equivalent yield, particularly in the early years when it could

two thirds of his original investment. Not surprisingly the insurance industry has responded to the changed situation by looking for alternatives to the income bonds. Within a couple of weeks of Budget several insurance brokers had devised alternative methods of providing a high annual yield at the end of the term.

These schemes rely on short-dated government securities to provide the return of capital. The stock is redeemed to secure full nominal value. The proceeds of the original investment is used to purchase a temporary annuity to provide the main portion of annual income. The annuity cannot be cancelled but the investor has government stock at risk.

The schemes are slightly cumbersome to administer and the indications so far that they will not be inquired as heavily as income bonds were. On the other hand it is difficult to envisage against such plans in 1 year—after all there is nothing to stop the investor buying his own gilt temporary annuity which achieve the same effect.

## Tax relief 'clawback' fears for linked policies

The Government's wide-reaching proposals for the insurance industry contained in the Budget will not be known in full detail until the second Finance Bill is published later in the year. These measures include the treatment of loans against policies and the clawback of tax relief on early surrenders.

It was the previous Labour administration which introduced the concept of the qualifying policy—the only policies eligible for tax relief on the premiums. Effectively, this legislation outlawed all single premium policies which had hitherto attracted tax relief on the premiums. The proposals embodied in the Budget take the concept of

the qualifying policy a stage further.

The pre-Budget situation was that life assurance tax relief—16½ per cent of the premium payable—was available on policies which ran for at least five years. The premiums had to be payable at regular intervals, and there were conditions relating to the amount of life cover guaranteed and the individual's total assurances amounting to less than £100,000.

The biggest loophole in these arrangements was that there was nothing to stop the individual cancelling a qualifying policy before the end of 10 years. In many cases this early surrender of policies which had been the policyholder which had a surrender value derived from the relief on the premiums.

With this in mind, the Budget outlined proposals to claw back some of the tax relief on policies surrendered before the expiry of the fifth year. Policies surrendered in the first two years will be subject to the full clawback of 16½ per cent subject to a ceiling of the surrender value less 83 per cent; policies surrendered in the third year will suffer a clawback of 11 per cent with a ceiling of surrender value less 85 per cent; for policies surrendered in the fourth year, the clawback is 5½ per cent with a ceiling of surrender value less 94 per cent.

As conventional endowment assurance policies rarely have a worthwhile surrender value before the fifth year, this particular

approach 20 per cent more. The accepted course of action with such schemes was to cancel the policy after a couple of years, start again with a new policy and so on. In future this will be no benefit in itself.

Traditional life offices will be hit where partial surrenders are concerned or where policies are made payable; that is to say, where policyholder pays no more premiums but lets the proceeds continue to build up the life fund. The clawback principle will be introduced with appropriate modifications, and it will also affect the surrender bonuses.

The question of loans life assurance policies is clear since the Budget, but could be that the clawback of tax relief will apply here too. Some insurers believe that the proposals may mean a loan against a policy will be treated as a partial surrender and thus be subject to the clawback arrangements. Others are more sanguine in their expectation years when it could

## Self-employed can pick the best

by John Gaslee

Last year's Finance Act gave companies the right to make pension arrangements for controlling directors. Previously, controlling directors had been obliged to make their own arrangements and pay the cost from their own incomes.

The self-employed, however, must still make their own arrangements for any pension over and above the basic flat rate state pension of the future.

Anyone who counts as self-employed or who has self-employed earnings in addition to pensionable earnings can arrange a personal pension policy, with the contributions towards it ranking for full relief of tax. However, there are limitations on the amount which can be contributed each year.

The annual ceiling is 15 per cent of net relevant earnings, subject to an overall limit of £1,500. For anyone with pensionable earnings in addition to his self-employed earnings, lower limits apply. If more than the amount allowed is contributed in any year there can be a carry forward for tax purposes to a subsequent year.

Also, as a concession, the Inland Revenue allows a contribution to be paid, and rank for relief in a particular tax year, up to six months after earnings for that year have been agreed.

### Limits on the pension

Not only are contributions to this type of personal pension tax free, but the insurance company's fund in which they are invested is exempt for tax purposes. At least, that is what it is called, but so far as property investment is concerned, tax will be levied at 37 per cent on development gains.

For those in employment, there are limits on the pension which can be drawn, in relation to final earnings. For the self-employed, whose earnings are likely to fluctuate from year to year, there is no limitation on the emerging pension. But there is the limitation, already mentioned, on the contributions which can be paid each year.

Thus, it is all-important to pick the contract which, over the term, will give the best results.

A wide range of contracts is available and there is much to be said in favour of paying premiums on a single premium basis. This means that when a pension policy is arranged, there is no future commitment to continue paying premiums to it. The advantage to be gained from this is that one can pick and choose the most suitable contract each year.

For the long term, an equity linked contract may be quite attractive when prices of equities are low, but probably should be avoided if at the time of paying a premium equity prices seem to have reached

a peak. There is no need for the whole of a year's contribution to be invested in a single contract.

As in other spheres, there can be advantages in not having all your eggs in one basket. While there are attractions in taking a policy which has a direct link with a property or managed fund, inevitably fluctuations in the value of the units can be expected in the future, and it is not everybody who wants to take too much of a risk with his pension. For safety, all or part of the total annual contribution can be paid to a with-profit contract with an insurance company.

One of the attractions of a with-profit contract is that at the outset, a guaranteed pension will be payable. At intervals, bonuses are declared by the company which have the effect of increasing the basic pension. Irrespective of investment conditions, once a bonus has been declared, it cannot be withdrawn.

Although the rate of bonus depends on the profit earned by the insurance company, most companies are conservative in their approach and tend not to declare an increased rate of bonus unless, as far as they can see, it is possible to maintain it.

Practice varies among insurance companies about bonus declarations. Some declare bonuses only until the pension starts to be drawn, with the result that it then remains at the same level throughout retirement. In some cases, however, a vesting bonus may be added at retirement. This is meant to be a final settlement in terms of allocation of profit, and the bonus is likely to fluctuate from year to year in the light of changing investment conditions.

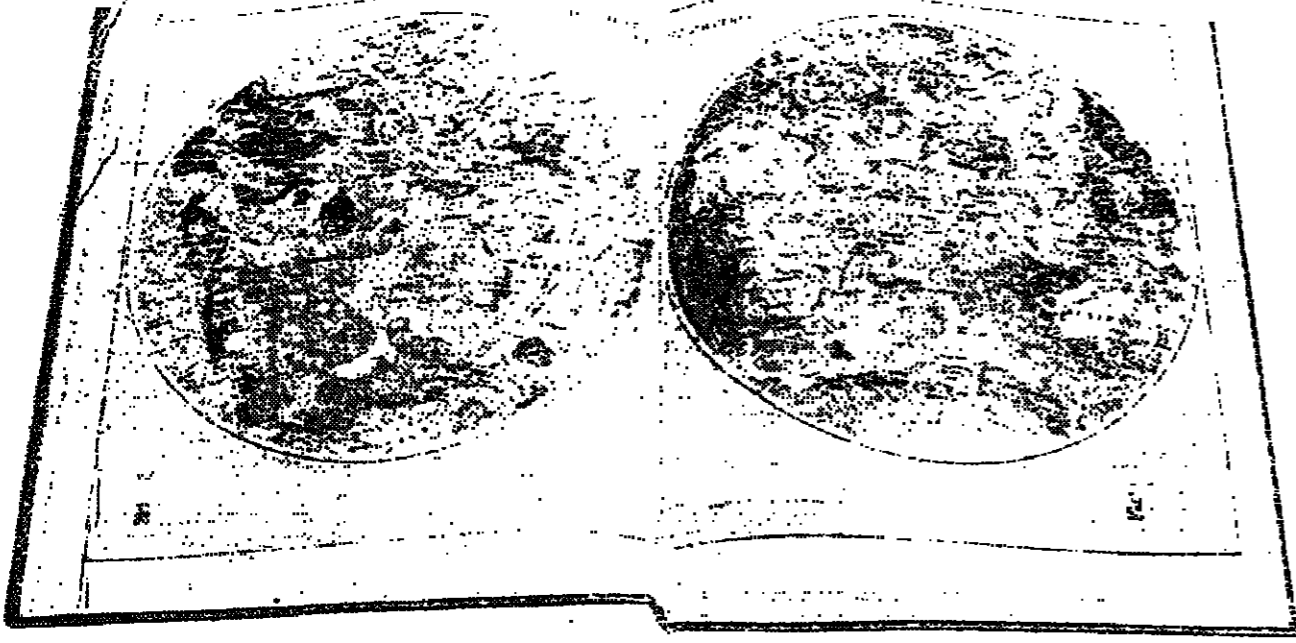
Some life offices allocate bonuses to this type of contract not only before retirement, but also while the pension is actually being paid out. In this way, the pension will increase during retirement, and should act as a kind of hedge against inflation.

One of the advantages of this type of pension policy is that part of it can be commuted at retirement for tax-free cash. Naturally, there is a limit to this. The cash taken at retirement must not exceed three times the remaining annuity. It may sound from that as though the amount of cash which can be taken will depend to some extent on the type of pension to be paid during retirement. In fact, there are ways round this, so that everyone can be in more or less the same position regarding cash commutation of a given capital value. Then, the type of pension contract chosen can be taken.

Ever if the aim is to secure the highest possible income during retirement, it can pay to take this tax-free cash. This is because the cash can then be used to purchase an immediate annuity from the insurance company which happens to be offering the best yield at the time. While nobody can forecast

what yields will be available in the years ahead, it is more than likely that the net yield from the annuity will be higher than the net income from the pension forfeited to secure the capital sum.

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115, P. 29, S. 74

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# Home: crime beats fire as the most serious risk



running from the data of the increase to the next renewal date for the policy.

On the building side, normally the value for insurance purposes bears little or no relationship to the market value of the property. This is because market value includes the value of the site, whereas the site cannot be destroyed.

For insurance purposes it is the full cost of rebuilding which should be insured, including the cost of moving debris, and the fees of architects and surveyors who would have to be retained in the event of rebuilding being necessary.

Thus, while there is a tendency for market values to drop, particularly in certain areas, insured values should continue to be increased, as there is no let-up in the increases in building costs. In fact a safety margin should be added on top of the present cost of rebuilding to make allowance for the fact that a claim may not occur for some months.

Insurers have various penalties they can impose in the event of under-insurance. One of these is the imposition of the average clause, which is not used widely. The effect of this is that, in the event of under-insurance, any claim (however small) will be scaled down in the same proportion as the under-insurance.

In other cases, either an owner gives an undertaking in the proposal form, or there is a warranty in the policy, that the insurance will be maintained for the full value at risk. In theory

this type of wording may allow insurers to make a policy void in the event of under-insurance. Clearly, however, this course is not adopted, with the result that there may very well be a compromised claim, or a claim may be settled on an ex-gratia basis, for a reduced figure.

There has been a tendency during the past few years for insurers to add additional cover to their policies, without requiring additional premium. Perhaps one of the most significant additions has been cover for substantial excesses. At first, some companies were reluctant to give this protection unless the business came to them through a building society.

Now, although there are still exceptions, this cover is much more common, with the result that there is likely to be little or no selection by policy-holders against those insurers giving cover on this basis.

A close watch needs to be kept on the insured value of contents. Generally it is a fallacy to think that, because of depreciation, no increase in the sum insured is necessary. In the first place, most households are adding to their possessions over the years.

Second, claims are assessed on the actual cost of replacement, subject to any deduction that may be made for depreciation. Many companies now say they will pay the full cost of replacement for items of furniture and so on that are stolen or

totally destroyed (apart from clothes and household linen, for which a written-down value may be employed) that must be insured. So far, no really serious claims problems seem to have arisen as a result of this fresh approach to household business.

Some companies, also, are offering insurance for the contents of houses virtually on all risks terms, subject to a modest excess. The idea is that, instead of loss or damage having to be caused by a specified peril so as to rank as a claim, virtually any type of loss or damage will be covered. To eliminate small claims, it is customary for an excess of, say, £10 or £15 to be imposed for most claims.

Often this cover is offered as an optional extension to the usual type of policy. Naturally, it tends to be rather more expensive and, so far, there does not appear to have been a great demand for this wider cover.

All risks cover on jewellery and other valuables remains popular. Many insurers, however, have increased rates of premium for Central London and other potentially high risk areas. Also, special consideration is given where fairly large sums are insured, since such items could be of particular interest to thieves.

Insurers are taking a much greater interest in the security of private houses and flats. More surveys are being undertaken by insurers' own surveyors, but it is often considered uneconomical to survey homes where sums insured are comparatively modest.

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## Industry: profits can go up in smoke

charged may well prove to be a greater opportunity for profit among the smaller types of risk. Nevertheless, on the whole, in recent years, British fire business has been reasonably profitable for most insurers, and there is a feeling that a rating may be on more or less the right lines.

Insurers appreciate, however, that there is more to successful underwriting than simply balancing their books at the end of each year. It is important that rates of premium quoted should be equitable in the light of the risk.

To this end, in recent years insurers have introduced much larger differentials between different types of risk. Furthermore, substantial discounts are now given where approved sprinkler systems have been installed. With some of the more hazardous risks it could be difficult to obtain adequate insurance protection if sprinklers were not installed.

Normally, figures quoted for fire wastage apply only to the estimated material damage. Substantial losses can flow from that—in terms of lost production and markets, unemployment, and so on. In this type of business, these indirect costs are not quantified, but could exceed the cost of the material damage.

This type of loss can be covered by business interruption insurance, otherwise known as consequential loss insurance. Over the years, more complex forms of policy have been developed and this is now a major class of business. Whether insurers yet have their ratings on the best basis remains to be seen.

Certainly there are differences of opinion on this, since the degree of risk may well be quite different from that of material damage. In some trades and industries, for instance, comparatively little material damage can result in a substantial claim under a business interruption policy.

Although a premium for a fire risk is calculated as a percentage rate on the full amount at risk, in making their calculations insurers often use a figure which they consider to be the maximum probable loss likely to occur, although there are plenty of warnings on this theme. In recent years, however, there have been plenty of major fires where the cost has been much higher than that estimated figure. Naturally, this has caused underwriting problems and a re-appraisal of the efforts used to arrive at the premium to be charged and the line which an individual insurer is prepared to write.

In the past, for fire business, most insurers have been reluctant to give insurance with a large excess or deductible factor. Their attitude has been that they need a large bulk premium, and do not wish to receive comparatively modest premiums in return for running a "catastrophe" risk, even though this procedure would cut out the more modest claims.

Now, however, as insurers are trying to press home to managements the need for better fire prevention methods, some form of co-insurance might be the best way of achieving this. Only when an organization has a direct financial stake in something is it likely to take a real interest. Some insurers feel that, so long as full insurance cover is given, their exhortations about fire prevention may not be as well received as they would like.

Liability insurance has been a difficult class of business for many insurers because of inflation with court awards for personal injury rising at a fast rate.

The current incidence of crime has meant that some business on goods in transit is particularly difficult, and

Industrial fire insurance in the United Kingdom used to be profitable for insurers. There was a period of sharp reductions in rates when these were not really justified. Often, for instance, the larger the risk, the lower would be the rate of premium. This led to underwriting losses for many insurers. As a result, fire insurance came under the microscope.

In recent years insurers have tried to be much more equitable in their basis of rating. Even so, rating tends to be based on the trade of industry in question, and individual companies have seen their premiums rise sharply over the years although they may not themselves have made any claim during that period.

One of the problems for insurers has been the number of large fires. In 1973 there were 11 fires estimated as costing more than £1m each, compared with four in 1972, and there were 31 fires in the range of £500,000 to £1m, compared with only 11 in 1972. In England, Scotland and Wales the estimated cost of fire damage in 1973 increased by 65 per cent, to an estimated total of £179.3m.

Some insurers prefer not to write the large industrial fire risks, feeling that the rates of premium being

that, for anything approaching a "target" risk, security precautions have to be strict. Often in this type of business the rate of premium is directly related to the degree of security in force.

Over the years there has been a significant expansion in credit insurance. This has applied not only to exports but also in domestic business. It is at times like this that the value of such insurance becomes apparent; but, even in more normal times, financial difficulties can sometimes arise in the least expected quarters.

Generally, credit insurers do not cover the full amount at risk, feeling that an insured company should always have some stake in the money owing. Nevertheless, such insurance can often prove to be a worthwhile protection.

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## Motor: keen competition and nationalization threat keep prices down



Traditionally, many insurers have made little or no money from motor insurance. There have been a number of reasons for this, and most of them still hold good.

In the first place, the premium income from this class of business is substantial for most insurers. There is, therefore, keen competition for motor business, simply

because the volume of premium can make a substantial contribution to overall overheads.

While in theory it could be argued that insurers should stop writing motor business if they are not making a reasonable profit, to withdraw entirely would have the effect of putting up administrative costs for many other classes of business. Put simply, motor insurance premiums contribute to a general manager's salary. If motor insurance were to be cut out, presumably the general manager would still be paid much the same, in which event a larger proportion of his salary would have to be met by other classes of business. The same argument can be applied to other overheads.

Another reason why motorists have sometimes been able to secure insurance at less than cost price has been the threat of nationalization. Some insurance companies have been looking closely at the "snakes and ladders" principle behind their no-claim discount scales, to try to make them more equitable. In general, however, the penalty for making a

claim in terms of loss of discount at the next renewal and subsequently—assuming a continued clean record—is greater for somebody with a good record than for a motorist with a chequered motorist career. Perhaps that is fair, in that the "good" motorist is paying a lower net premium than somebody with only one or two years of claim-free driving behind him.

At first, the petrol shortage in the winter brought a significant drop in claims figures. Since then there has been an upward swing, and it is debatable whether the sharp rise in the cost of petrol has had much effect in keeping cars off the roads.

On the claims side, one of the chief problems for insurers has been the rise in the cost of repairs—which at times has exceeded the general increase in the cost of living. Insurers have been

making strenuous efforts to control claims costs while still providing an adequate service for their policyholders. Insurers are trying increasingly to channel repair business to well equipped and efficient firms of repairers, at reasonable rates.

In theory, motorists will have the right to decide where their cars shall be repaired, but growing pressure is being put on them to use "approved" repairers, and before long, policies may be so worded that the last word about the choice of a repairer lies with the insurer.

Quite apart from trying to keep down the cost of individual claims, the motor insurers set up a research centre some years ago which has been looking closely at methods of repair. Already, by devising better techniques in close cooperation with manufacturers, commercial repairers have been advised of ways in which sub-

stantial savings can be achieved. Nevertheless, helpful as that may be, claims costs have continued to increase. Also, there has been an increase in the amounts awarded in court for personal injury, and naturally this trend has affected out-of-court settlements as well.

Comprehensive insurance in Britain is still cheaper than in many other industrialized countries. However, in view of the increasing cost of premiums, there is a trend away from comprehensive insurance to, for example, third party, fire and theft.

Insurers do not want to see this trend accelerate too much, since it could mean that administrative expenses would absorb a higher proportion of the total premium than in the past—company's administrative costs are much the same for a policy, irrespective of the cover given.

During the past few years insurance brokers have been handling a higher proportion of motor insurance business. From the point of view of motorists, probably it is desirable that they should be sound, unbiased advice.

Some companies, and Lloyd's market as a whole, feel that this results in lower overheads than a large branch network, the grounds that motor insurance premiums—which a broker's commission is based on—have increased at a faster pace than brokers' administrative costs. A number of companies have cut the rate of commission payable. This, however, has not applied to all business, with the result that even when a company has made such a cut, the overall improvement in terms of income for the company has been no more than about per cent.

## Aviation: rates tend to fall despite incidence of hijacking



The world aviation industry continues to look largely to London for cover. And it is a rare occasion for the London insurance market not to be involved in the claims which follow almost any air accident, whether the aircraft involved is a jumbo jet or a single-seater.

London-based aviation underwriters are not, however, complacent over their share of international business in this sector of insurance, recognizing that world capacity for writing aviation business continued to grow.

They see their main competitors emerging in the future from Europe, Japan and the United States, where some of the life companies have already thrown their massive resources into the aviation market.

In spite of the incidence of hijacking and other acts of air piracy and the crash at the beginning of March of a Turkish Airlines DC10 Airbus with 346 fatalities—the worst air disaster in history—the trend is for aviation insurance rates to be forced down rather than up.

Two factors influence this trend. These are the satisfactory insurance figures returned by the majority of airlines, and the severe competition from other insurance centres around the world already mentioned.

The 747 jumbo jet comes out particularly well when different types of aircraft being operated by the airlines are assessed. The market was apprehensive when the aircraft was intro-

duced at the beginning of this decade. The prospect of a mid-air collision between two of them, each carrying 500 passengers, and the wreckage falling on a built-up area below, created a waking nightmare for many underwriters.

Actually, the jumbo has returned an excellent safety record so far, so that there is pressure on the market for the airlines to bring the rates down.

According to the most recent figures given by Mr. A. J. Pagram, chairman of the Lloyd's Aviation Underwriters' Association, the 1973 rates on a 747 operated by airlines with good records were about 80 per cent of the rate for the previous year, and in the region of 35-40 per cent of the rate charged three years before.

Aviation underwriters throughout the world naturally keep the closest watch on the safety records of all airlines and all types of aircraft. Despite the fact that

premium rates for DC10s have not risen as a result of the Turkish Airlines crash, the market is very conscious of the fact that world airliner jet fleets are increasing by about 6 per cent a year, with most of the additions being of the wide-body, Airbus type.

As Mr. Pagram pointed out: "With hull values rising to over 30m dollars and a passenger-carrying capacity upwards of 500, the potentially catastrophic nature of the aviation market's exposure does not have to be emphasized."

Most airlines now carry war-risk coverage as a matter of course on their insurance policies: but both

the airline and insurance industries are mildly optimistic over the trends in hijacking and other guerrilla activities. Tighter security arrangements at the world's airports have helped reinforce their confidence, although underwriters are still dissatisfied with the situation at certain airports.

Generally, however, the view at Lloyd's is that aviation rates should not drop any lower due to the twin facts that inflation is making aircraft repairs continually more expensive, while the crashes that may be expected in the future will—because of the cost of the aircraft and the higher numbers of people on board—be far

more expensive to settle than in the past.

The aviation insurance market continues to view with the closest possible interest the moves towards settlements of claims in the recent DC10 disaster. On board when it crashed into a wood shortly after taking off from

Paris, on a flight from Istanbul to London, were representatives of many nationalities who had bought their tickets in many different countries.

Depending on a number of variables, including the departure, destination and stopping places in the passengers' tickets, which countries are parties to the relevant international conven-

tions and agreements governing air carriers' liability—the Warsaw Convention, the Hague Protocol and the Montreal Agreement—settlers will be able to claim so far as the conventions concerned, varying sums to £30,000.

Independently of the possible liability of the airline, the aircraft manufacturer, McDonnell Douglas, could have a liability in respect of the aircraft and passengers assuming that negligence found against them, and this event they do not have limit to the liability as airlines under the conventions.

Arthur Rec Air Correspondent

## Shipping: cover at less than cost



All the indications are that during the past year or two many shipowners have been obtaining their insurances in the commercial market at what will prove to be less than cost price. This is because, although insurers should have been increasing their premium rates to take into account higher repair costs because of inflation and the higher numbers of claims made in many quarters.

This has been because of severe competition for hull business throughout the world market. Much of the competition appears to have been generated by insurers writing business solely for premium income, with a view to using it to make investment profits.

In 1973, the tonnage of ships totally lost was the highest on record. The loss book of the Liverpool Underwriters' Association listed 179 ships aggregating 1,078,523 tons as having been lost. This represents a 2 per cent advance in tonnage, but a 10 per cent increase in tonnage compared with 1972. But as tonnage afloat increased by 8 per cent during 1973, the loss ratio is slightly lower.

One of the particularly disturbing features for underwriters has been the growing incidence of marine claims reaching the insured value. Last year, for instance, constructive total losses accounted for 52 per cent of the tonnage lost, compared with 43 per cent in 1972.

This means that an increasing number of casualties which previously would have constituted a major particular average claim are becoming a total loss from the insurance point of view. Nevertheless, about two-thirds of the claims paid by underwriters in terms of total money, are for the trivials of the business. But the cost of these claims is related directly to repair costs, which have increased sharply in recent years.

It has been calculated that in the five years since 1968, hull repair costs have increased by nearly 60 per cent. Last year, the figure was probably between 12 per cent and 15 per cent.

The increased capacity in the insurance market has come about as a result of profitable years in the past. But the scramble for premium income has reached such a pitch that there is unlikely to be much profit for anyone at the moment, and the chances are that before long there will be some contraction, because of the withdrawal of certain insurers who have burnt their fingers.

In certain parts of the Far East, there has been severe competition for the London market from both Japanese and United States insurers. A significant number of overseas insurance companies are now associate members of the Institute of London Underwriters, and can write business in London on equal terms with the rest of the London market. As a result, many of those in the

traditional London market feel that overseas companies which now have the opportunity to write business in the market should be prepared to toe the line so far as rating is concerned.

Lately, there have been indications that there is rather more cohesion within the world insurance market as insurers as a whole appreciate that cut-throat competition is not likely to benefit anyone in the long term.

Quite apart from inflation, there have been serious currency problems for many insurers, particularly for underwriters at Lloyd's and London companies. While a considerable volume of premium is earned in sterling

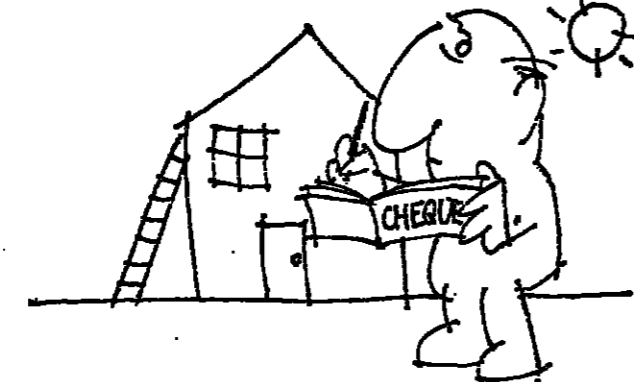
or dollars, claims for repairs may not be settled in the same currency.

There has been criticism of some of the reinsurance arrangements within the marine market. For instance, certain underwriters, most of whom are based overseas, have been criticised because they appear to back their judgment with large lines, but keep only a small effective retention.

Taking into account the overriding commission which American Hull Insurance will be paid to the direct writer who reinsures a substantial part of his line, a reinsurer may not be aware he is in a loss position until the sand has been washed out from under him.

J.G.

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- Contents**  
Does your policy cover you for the FULL REPLACEMENT 'AS NEW' value of furniture, carpets and appliances?  Yes  No
- A rented TV is usually your responsibility. Would your insurance policy pay for its theft or accidental damage?  Yes  No
- Does your policy cover you for losses while you're moving house?  Yes  No

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# THE FUTURE OF THE UNION

he resignation of Mr Brian... and his Unionist colleagues from the Northern Ireland Executive... the ever-precari-ous construction of British policy... province collapses. Some-... may be saved of the prin-... underlying it, but the... in which it was cast (the... tion... compulsory... sharing, Sunningdale, the... dimension" given institu-... form) is shattered. It is no... to stick it together

In the end it was Mr Faulkner and his fellow Unionists who made the break. Their change of mind about the wisdom of talking to the strike leaders, which they underwent as the consequences of the stoppage became ever more severe, found no response with the Secretary of State. If it had, the SDLP members of the Executive would have resigned in their turn. So the Executive was by that time doomed anyway, and with it the Anglo-Irish policy of which it was the lynch-pin.

## Inept handling

But in another way the manner of the Executive's demise matters very much. The immediate occasion was the refusal of the Secretary of State to appoint intermediaries to talk to the strike committee. The end of the road came because the Secretary of State would not do something which it is fair to say almost every Protestant in the province thinks he ought to have been prepared to do. A new and dangerous phase in Northern Ireland opened therefore with the majority community solidly persuaded that things have come to the present pass because of unreasonable obstinacy on the part of the United Kingdom Government. And yet the most needed political commodity in Northern Ireland in the next few weeks is moderate unionist opinion prepared to place some confidence in the capacity and intentions of the government at Westminster.

So inept has been the Government's handling of the crisis in these last few days—the Prime Minister's ill-judged broadcast, the timing of military intervention to alleviate the effects of the strike, and Mr Rees's choice of pressures to which it should appear that he succumbed—that doubts have been sown about the deeper intentions of the Government. If its conduct of affairs has been so unhelpful to the realization of its declared intentions, has it not declared intentions? These doubts are not justified, but there has been confusion, indecision and simple inexperience.

The Northern Ireland Constitution Act does not make express provision for the collapse of the Executive. But since the Secretary of State is her Majesty's principal executive officer in Northern Ireland, powers exercised through the appointed members of the Executive revert to him when the Executive ceases to exist. The strikers now say that they must have the promise of an early election from Mr

Rees before they will relax their stranglehold on the province. Hard as it is for him after all that he has said and done, he should meet that demand without delay. The strike needed to be defused in order to keep in being the Executive and the policy of which it was an essential instrument. If, as has happened, the attempt to break the strike has instead broken the Executive, no purpose is served by refusing to deal with the strike leaders or refusing their demand for elections.

Before those elections are held—and it would be most convenient to hold them under the statutes now in force—the British Government ought to spell out to the electors of Northern Ireland what the election is about. If an Assembly is returned from which an Executive can be formed which satisfies the statutory conditions about acceptability to the community as a whole (and that includes the Roman Catholic third of the population) all well and good. The present constitution will be given another lease of life. But that is so improbable an outcome that it can be disregarded for practical purposes.

The new Assembly will be more in the nature of a constituent assembly whose function is to manifest which political leaders enjoy popular support and in what proportions, so that negotiations about the future of the province may be conducted with newly accredited representatives. The British Government should make it plain before the elections that its part in the negotiations to follow would be governed by this new consideration: there are conditions in the absence of which the United Kingdom Government and the people of the United Kingdom as a whole are not prepared to maintain Northern Ireland as a part of the kingdom.

## Election demand

The principal condition is that the representatives of the two communities in the province should be capable of agreeing to a constitutional framework acceptable to both. That position was laboriously achieved under the present constitution. The Protestant community have, with their eyes open, destroyed it. New elections followed by constitutional talks may give them another chance to reach the same position by another route, if they can find it. But they should be left in no doubt that the election they have successfully demanded is an election to decide the future of the union.

## Salary levels: shortage of inventive scientists

From Professor Eric A. Ash  
Sir, The ancient debate on how to reconcile differing levels of reward with the concept of equality, as recently revived by Mr Grimond, is always immensely stimulating. There is indeed no obvious reason why it should not be continued indefinitely unless you, Sir, were to decide otherwise. Participants should however beware of the need to keep at least one step away from any aspect of reality which might be subject to direct attack.

It is in the assertion "... as to talent, that is one commodity which is not in short supply in Britain" that Mr Maxwell (May 24) has, I feel, offended the unwritten rule. It may be that Mr Maxwell's experience lies in areas where the need for the highest level of talent is less pressing than in the applied sciences and engineering with which I am myself familiar. Or, perhaps, he has not himself been involved with the search.

I can, however, assure him that the innovative talent on which the competitive edge of industry ultimately depends is now, as always, extraordinarily hard to find. Mr Maxwell's assertion that "... it merely waits for the right conditions to reveal itself," shows an enviable level of optimism, but hardly provides a basis for action.

Irrespective of our own emotional responses to the debate, we must take the possibility of a new massive drain of talent seriously. We suffer a serious loss of applied scientists to the United States in the late '50s and early '60s. The loss ceased only as a result of the Vietnam war—which made the prospects, coupled as they were with a grant of military service, somewhat less attractive. Taking account of the calibre of the people we lost, the damage to our innovative potential was severe—much more so than estimated at the time on a basis of a simple count of the numbers involved.

The biggest danger that we now face is that of a brain drain to the continent, where, in several of the EEC countries, the real salary levels for applied scientists are higher by a factor of two or three than obtainable within the United Kingdom. There is of course the language barrier. Unfortunately, the quality of language teaching in schools has, in recent years, improved enormously. One can, these days, observe the phenomenon of school leavers actually able to converse in a foreign language.

Perhaps one might obtain some relief by discouraging the teaching of languages, but in a career in the applied sciences, which fair safety, one could still permit language studies for those intending to go in for politics, where, for several distinct reasons, the danger of a brain drain seems remote. Yours faithfully, ERIC A. ASH, Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering, University College London, Torrington Place, WC1E, May 25.

especially the poorest, can continue to rise? In other words, how can Britain secure a higher rate of economic growth?

This is an old question, not to be dismissed by contemptuous references to "greed" or the "affluent society". There will always be those who want to go back to scrubbing boards and throw away the washing-machines, but they have no right to talk for ordinary people who very rightly want to improve their living standards.

It seems to me to emerge conclusively from correspondence in your columns—and indeed has been obvious for a long time and under successive Governments—is that the process of re-distributing existing wealth, or taxing well-paid executives, will do nothing to create improved conditions for growth. Most directors would tell you from their experience in the thick of industry that the psychological effect of weakening still more the incentives in Britain to manage efficiently and/or save capital would be profoundly depressing.

British industry's export performance this year is sufficiently impressive to give the lie to the picture of a divided Britain on class lines and by envy of the high-fliers and the achievers. But any exporter will tell you that he finds amazement abroad at the British capacity to denigrate our own industrial and business leaders the sooner this nonsense stops, the sooner we can get on with the really important debate about how to recapture the momentum of growth.

Yours faithfully, RICHARD POWELL, Director General, Institute of Directors, 10 Belgrave Square, SW1, May 28.

From Mr Andrew Lloyd Webber  
Sir, I wonder whether the tax structure has not been responsible for many of the ills that Mr Grimond diagnoses in his letter of May 20. The answer, I think, is likely to be an entrepreneur in Britain than to have a high earned income. You have to pay 30 per cent tax on a capital gain, and on top rates 83 per cent of a high earned income and 45 per cent of a high unearned income. Under the Tories the amounts were 30 per cent, 73 per cent and 90 per cent respectively.

The Tories, however, believed in the myth, too, or at least found it difficult to expel by introducing a retrospective surcharge on surtax of 10 per cent in 1972-73. Significantly there was no surcharge on capital gains or estate duty. It is interesting that under this Labour government it is relatively better to be an entrepreneur than under the Tories and in this connexion one recalls that stockbrokers still talk about the money made in the bull market under the last Labour government. High earners, of course, have not been the worst affected in post-tax earnings since the Budget.

In short, the only ways for a British person to make money are to be an entrepreneur, speculate in the money market, or in the football pools, or emigrate; but you cannot earn it. Maybe this provides a reason for Lord Bowden's observation in January to the Manchester University Institute of Science and Technology that many young people prefer buying and selling houses and antiques rather than going into industry. His science and engineering course is apparently half full.

Yet in *The Times*, the same day, Sir Kenneth Robinson pointed out saying that if all net incomes were removed from everyone earning over £5,000 per annum the yield would be about £400 million or 30p per week for everyone. This further suggests that the Government attention has been paid to the wrong man if redistribution of wealth is the goal.

I wonder, I may be wrong, whether Mr Grimond may have been right in saying that the material things he requires for his way of life, such as houses, the education

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

of his children, and so forth, at a time when they cost considerably less than they do now. If so, it might have coloured his thinking as, indeed, my views are coloured by two years of very high earnings a short time ago. But the professional class was relatively much better off 20 years ago and at that time one would have required an income that appeared to be much smaller than today to buy, say, a house and furnish it well.

I think a root cause of Britain's problems is this tax structure which encourages some of our most talented people to be an entrepreneur or to emigrate. The sheer waste of ability in the country is staggering. I am not arguing against the principle that high earners should pay taxes at a higher rate but it should not be overdone, particularly now that the country desperately needs more talent encouraged back to production areas to create more wealth.

One hears the job satisfaction argument coming up but one must accept that this latter is the privilege of very few. For the majority financial inducement is a tremendous incentive and always will be. The only incentive to rival it is perhaps the most dangerous, power. I believe the first political party to grasp this position will do an enormous service to the country as a whole. It is a tragedy that a high income derived from the application of someone's talents is considered to be a crime. We are socialist goals, and a tragedy not just for high earners.

Yours faithfully, ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER, The Saville, 69 Brook Street, W1.

From Professor L. C. Knights  
Sir, I have followed with interest the correspondence on inequalities of pay started by the letter of Mr Jo Grimond (May 20). It seems to me that there are gross inequalities of income. The other is that there are limits to what even the most well intentioned government can do about it, since, as a nineteenth-century writer quaintly said of manufacturing and commerce, "like free air; for at the sight of human feet, it will spread the light wings of capital and fly away from human bondage."

The only absolute cure for this is the absolute state of anarchy which heaven defend us. Governments can, and should, do something towards removing the more glaring inequalities of take-home pay; but to aim at some hypothetical equality of reward (how defined?) is to run into a morass, which is no less a morass for being in utopia.

There are, however, other considerations. It is both odd and symptomatic that none of your correspondents has mentioned the word "quality". What those in charge of public affairs should concern themselves with is surely, the quality of life people lead, both on the job and outside it. That "quality" is not easily defined (one man's opera is another man's bingo); is no excuse for ignoring questions which, although they are connected with the money you have in your pocket, cannot be stated in purely economic terms.

This is not the place to enlarge on what would be involved in getting our priorities right (such, for example, as spending far more money on education and less on defence). I only want to insist that there are fundamental questions about the nature of a decent society (to put it no higher) which will not be resolved solely by concentrating on pay, important as this is to all of us. After all, there was a time when the Labour Party, as represented by men like R. H. Tawney, did care about the kind of life people might lead in a society freed from the more disastrous consequences of so-called free enterprise.

Yours truly, L. C. KNIGHTS, 57 Jesus Lane, Cambridge.

**Rehabilitation Bill**  
From Lord Gardiner  
Sir, I am sorry to see that Mr R. M. Taylor, the chairman of the Parliamentary and Legal Committee of the Guild of British Newspaper Editors (letters, May 27) has taken a dislike to the Rehabilitation of Offenders Bill. When it came before the House of Commons in January, a number of Conservative MPs supported it in leading articles, thus joining their approval with that of both sides of industry, the Lord Chief Justice and other judges, magistrates, police and probation officers, insurers, and many members of both Houses of Parliament.

Mr Taylor has evidently not studied the Bill: if he had, he could not describe as a "rogue's charter" a measure designed to give long overdue help to the majority of our citizens who have been shown by the official statistics to be distinctly more law-abiding than the rest of us. Although Mr Taylor's objections are not new, it is right that they should be fully debated; that is the only way to decide whether they are well founded. Parliament has already debated them more than twice—when the Bill went through all its stages in the House of Lords, and when it was twice given a Second Reading in the House of Commons.

Mr Taylor now thinks it "absurd" that the Commons should debate them again at the committee stage, which is designed precisely to give the opportunity for detailed consideration of questions of this kind. For my part, I fail to see how they can be decided rationally—let alone constitutionally—if Parliament is not to be allowed to discuss them.

## Christian attitude to violence

From the Rev Gordon Wilson  
Sir, The ghastly massacre of Israeli school children brings home to us, if Hiroshima had not already taught us, that there is literally no limit to the violence which may be wrought by those who, convinced of the rightness of their cause, believe it to be vital to break the will of the enemy who resists them.

This makes all the more disturbing the report published by you on only the previous day to this terrible event of the speech made by Canon Burgess Carr, secretary-general of the All-Africa Conference of Churches, urging Christians to support armed liberation movements. One is used to muddled theology in these days when Christian opinions are more likely to be dictated by pragmatic political considerations than by an understanding of the true significance of the New Testament gospel (and perhaps Professor Hanson's article on May 11 in your issue has done little to enlighten your correspondents seem to believe). Nevertheless, when Canon Carr says that liberation movements have helped the church to learn that the Cross sanctifies violence into an instrument of redemption one can only be amazed to see the fundamental truth of the Christian gospel so manipulated as to "turn it completely back to front."

It is either naive or dangerously irresponsible for Canon Carr to talk of "selective" violence in days when liberation movements up against a huge preponderance of military and economic strength realize that far greater violence is to be meted out indiscriminately "soft" targets. Or by selective violence does Canon Carr, in terms of actual modern conflict, mean ineffective violence? Canon Carr is, of course, only making greater violence to be meted out been implicit in the church's attitude, with its cross-bedecked battle flags and sword hilts turned into pseudo-religious symbols. What Canon Carr's staggering theological notion has done is to bring to light the fact that there are really two Christianities, each with a totally different and incompatible interpretation of the meaning of the Cross. It is time the church made up its mind whether it is to bring to liberation. Either the Cross is the means of redemption by love, in which case it not only needs no sanction of violence but is totally opposed to it. Or else the Cross is a symbol of redemption by violence. We were concerned in between these two interpretations for the muzzy ambivalence which also continues to prevail among Christians in this matter.

Yours faithfully, GORDON WILSON, Anglican Pacifist Fellowship, 29 Great James Street, WC1, May 16.

## Sale of church treasures

From the President of the Society of Antiquaries  
Sir, Mr D. G. Steer in his letter (May 25) has entirely missed the point of church treasures. There is no room there concerned to challenge either the propriety or the worldly wisdom of such alienations when churches are in financial distress, though some of us may have serious doubts on both heads. We were concerned to demonstrate the inadequacy of the present Faculty Jurisdiction either to operate a consistent policy for the churches on the exercise of their rights to dispose of their treasures or to guarantee that the future of such treasures as are of national importance is not left to the chances of the sale room without adequate notice to the responsible authorities that might be interested to acquire them for the nation.

Whether Mr Steer likes it or not, the churches of this country have acquired over the centuries a vast quantity of very important treasures from the past generosity of pious citizens, for the safe keeping of which they have entrusted them to the whole an excellent record of trustees. But if these are now to be treated increasingly as disposable assets to finance current parochial needs, some better machinery is required to protect their future than is at present provided by the cautious decisions of individual diocesan chancellors in exercising an archaic Faculty Jurisdiction that was never designed for use in such a situation. Yours faithfully, J. N. L. MYRE, President, Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, Piccadilly, W1, May 26.

## Cape Verde Islands

From Mrs D. A. Bannerman  
Sir, Your correspondent in *The Times* (May 21) has a strange idea of the Cape Verde Islands. He says the soil is fertile, so is the Sahara. What is needed? Water. Rainfall may delight tourists but long periods of drought and often only a half-inch of rain is no good for agriculture.

Of the three larger islands, Santiago and Santo Antão have watered valleys, the rest desert. San Vicente, where cargo boats take in oil, has practically no water at all and relies on a small daily water boat from Santo Antão. The north-east trade winds blow in sand and are desiccating. The Portuguese Government have been lucky in excellent governors. There is no colour bar and the children are well educated. The Cape Verdeans export largely people, they have to work in the Americas and Portugal. I am yours faithfully, W. MARY BANNERMAN, Bailiffs, Slindon, Arundel, Sussex.

## Moats with crocodiles

From Sir Douglas Busk  
Sir, You report that some footballers are to be protected by dry moats. Could not the moats be wet and populated from the surplus crocodiles in the "Safari parks" of our starry homes. Yours truly, DOUGLAS BUSK, Breyton House, Chibolwa, Near Stroudbridge, Hampshire, May 24.

## Flaw

basic flaw in the scheme it sought to found a polity on constitutional and on an unresolved conflict of all political issues—how do the people believe, does their loyalty lie?—or unequivocally deter. The flaw might not have fatal had the question of ice subsidised in import. But history, the campaign of subversion waged by SA, and the irregular organization by the Pro-community ensured that it not subside.

he strains mounted the read to within the Executive. It lacked the flexibility and coherence without collective government operate. The instance had the most damaging on the course of events inability of the SDLP to recognize until it was until, that is, the pre- was under way—that of Ireland in the form at Sunningdale should attempted before the Ireland electorate had chance to pronounce on it.

## ENDING THE CHILL OFF RENEGOTIATION

aghlan's dilemma, when to Luxembourg next launch the European negotiations, is this: how can he the members of the try to do Britain any but Britain is so unenthusiastic about being in the club. What is the point, for making all the effort? Can justifiably ask just Mr Callaghan or some Irish Foreign Secretary objections a year or feeling is much in evidence the Community these our partners are not so mistrustful of British as fed up. What seems al in Westminster (or lackpool, site of Labour conferences) is extremely seen from Brussels. The is understandable, made a terrible fuss for, objecting to being kept e Community; and now we are in, it seems we errible fuss about want- out.

Accordingly, when Mr Callaghan presents his detailed proposals for changes in the terms of entry in Luxembourg next week, he is likely to sound far more reasonable than he did when he first came to office. The case for a renegotiation in our best interests is, on the face of it, overwhelming, and ought to be granted. All the rest, complicated and even annoying as individual points may seem to the Community, can be taken care of under the present system of rules and regulations. If he takes his cue properly, Mr

tions of Europeanism, Mr Heath's Government displayed a sour and selfish face. Now Labour is holding up the whole enterprise with its own series of demands. Some apologists of British tactics argue that the French take a nationalist line the whole time. Maybe they do; but if so, they are more adroit at it.

All the signs are that the Labour Government is, in fact, doing its utmost to make the renegotiation successful. A period in office in which it has had opportunity to gauge Britain's declining position in the world has underlined the value of the European connexion. More specifically, some exposure to the realities of the Community—experience of working in Brussels, the chance to meet and talk with their opposite numbers abroad, first hand examination of the Community's plans and policies—has greatly reduced Labour's fears about the Community.

Callaghan could argue that such changes, as in the operation of the common agricultural policy, will help the development of the Community as a whole. Up to now, the Prime Minister and his colleagues have not found it possible to say anything very nice about the Community. They have been silent as to the merits, or demerits, of European unity. The most that Mr Callaghan has brought himself to say is that a successful renegotiation can lead to a strengthened Community—which is hardly calculated to set the Thames, or even the Rhine, on fire.

The Government's fear is that if it sounded enthusiastic about the Community, it would weaken its negotiating hand. The others would see, so this argument goes, that Britain has nowhere else to go (leaving aside the very problematic chance of our being given an industrial free trade area) and would take a hard line in the negotiations. That is, surely, a short-sighted view. There is far more hope of making the negotiations a success if our partners are convinced that the Labour Government really intended to make a positive contribution to the Community. Mr Callaghan's tactics in keeping the Labour Party happy may be sound, but abroad his commitment to Europe is somewhat suspect, especially after his dismissive comments in Bonn about the political aims of the Community. His Luxembourg speech is an opportunity to be a little more forthcoming.

## Russell Tribunal sessions

From Mr Ken Coates and Mr Chris Farley  
Sir, In his article on official propaganda in Chile (*The Times*, May 6) Mr Eduardo de Penito summarized "what the Chilean junta's information officers would like us to believe". The catalogue included "miscellaneous horrors described more recently by the Russell Tribunal in Helsinki... so ludicrous that they defy the powers of the wildest imagination". Since the

Russell Tribunal has held no session in Helsinki, one wonders whose imagination it was. Mr David Wigg, writing on Brazil (*The Times*, May 9), correctly refers to the Russell Tribunal sessions in Rome, but suggests that its members were "hardly... disinterested... plucked at random off the streets." The Bertrand Russell Foundation nominated the original members for this tribunal, it put forward only candidates with integrity and ability to make judgments based solely on evidence.

This in no way implied that the members should have empty minds on the allegations of torture. Indeed after a decade of such charges it was difficult to imagine men of integrity who had remained indifferent to them. However the scholarship and objectivity of the tribunal members have ensured that their findings constitute a definitive indictment of the Brazilian regime. Yours faithfully, KEN COATES, Director, The Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation Ltd, Gambles Street, Notttingham.

From Colonel G. I. A. D. Draper  
Sir, Professor Robertson (May 20) and Professor Wade (May 27) have focused our attention on the existing lacuna between our international obligations under the Convention on Human Rights, 1950, and the existing condition of our domestic law. It is an urgent question whether we can afford the harm that will be done if this lacuna is not removed.

Article 1 of the Convention (which we were the first to ratify, March 1951) provides:—"The High Contracting Parties shall secure to everyone within their jurisdiction the rights and freedoms defined in Section 1 of this Convention." In the view of many jurists the central idea embodied in this key article is that individuals should be entitled to have the provisions of the Convention in the domestic courts of their country.

This idea receives some reinforcement in the later Article 13 of the Convention which is in these terms: "Everyone whose rights and freedoms set forth in this Convention are violated shall have an effective remedy before a national authority notwithstanding that the violation has been committed by persons acting in an official capacity." Admittedly, there has been considerable diversity of opinion among jurists as to the precise significance of this provision, a diversity not reduced by a difference in the French and English texts. There would, however, seem to be some merit in the view that the Convention's requirement of an "effective domestic remedy" is not met by a State's assertion that its domestic laws provide no less protection than does the Convention. Such an assertion means little, in legal terms, unless the aggrieved individual can put the actual issue to an effective testing in the courts of his own country by relying upon a particular, specific provision in the Convention for that purpose.

It is not beyond argument that this country ought to have passed the necessary legislation before it ratified the Convention, irrespective of the merit we have acquired by being the first State to ratify. The Secretary-General of the Council of Europe is entitled, by Article 57 of the Convention, to request the United Kingdom to "fur-

nish an explanation of the manner in which its internal law ensures the effective implementation of any of the provisions of this Convention." We responded to such a request in 1966 (Doc DH (66) 9 Add 2), but our reply cannot be called either detailed or illuminating. Perhaps the Secretary-General would be encouraged to exercise this invaluable power once more. The recent case in the Court of Appeal (*des Gas SA v Fells Veritas Ltd*), shows our judges applying the substantive provisions of treaties, here into our internal law by the operation of our legislation. There would seem to be no reason why the same wholesome process might not be undertaken in the case of the European Convention on Human Rights, thereby giving to our citizenry and the aliens present here the full measure of that protection which the Convention intended them to enjoy.

Your obedient servant, G. I. A. D. DRAPER, 16 Southover High Street, Lewes, Sussex.

## London hospitals

From Mr P. W. Dixon  
Sir, Those of us who are actively concerned with the management of hospitals in London have a great deal of sympathy with you over the problems of the nurses which were so ably spelt out in your first leader of May 14. You put your finger on some of the issues but I would emphasize that the London problem remains, as you say, we are not only talking about nurses but also other hospital workers—physiotherapists, technicians and secretarial staff—who are in very much the same plight and, if we are to staff the hospitals in central London, which is immediately needed, a vast uplift in London weighting, secondly, an examination of the pay scales of the paramedical, secretarial and ancillary staff. Most of us who have to work the system have lost confidence in the Whitley Council machinery and there will be a complete breakdown of the hospital services in central London if some solution cannot be achieved within the next few months. Yours faithfully, PETER DIXON, House Governor and Secretary, The Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, WC1.

From Mr C. L. Taylor  
Sir, If an AIP's favourite niece is a second nurse, ought he to declare an interest? Yours faithfully, C. L. TAYLOR, 71 Vernon Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, 16, May 23.

## Special interests

From Mr C. L. Taylor  
Sir, If an AIP's favourite niece is a second nurse, ought he to declare an interest? Yours faithfully, C. L. TAYLOR, 71 Vernon Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, 16, May 23.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
May 28: His Excellency General Rogelio Miranda Baldivia was presented in audience to Her Majesty the Queen...

Forthcoming marriages

Lord J. A. Douglas-Hamilton and Hon P. S. Surhan
The engagement is announced between James, son of the late Lord of Hamilton and Elizabeth...

Mr M. B. Chesterton and Miss A. M. R. Weir
The engagement is announced between Michael, eldest son of Sir Oliver and Lady Chesterton...

Mr J. Debenham and Miss M. A. Harper
The engagement is announced between John, elder son of Mr and Mrs J. Debenham...

Mr M. F. O'Neill and Miss D. Russell
The engagement is announced between William Francis, youngest son of Mr and Mrs W. J. O'Neill...

Mr R. E. Cornwell and Mrs D. M. F. Lewis-Dreyfus
The marriage took place on May 17 at Mr Roger Cornwell and Mrs Dominique Lewis-Dreyfus...

Mr J. T. Eldrid and Mrs E. S. Cairns
The marriage took place on Friday, May 24, at Caxton Hall, Westminster...

Mr S. A. Marsh and Miss M. J. Apthorp
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Mr J. D. Dorman and Miss P. A. Willert
The engagement is announced between John, only son of Sir Maurice and Lady Dorman...

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The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Mr Frank Scarlett...

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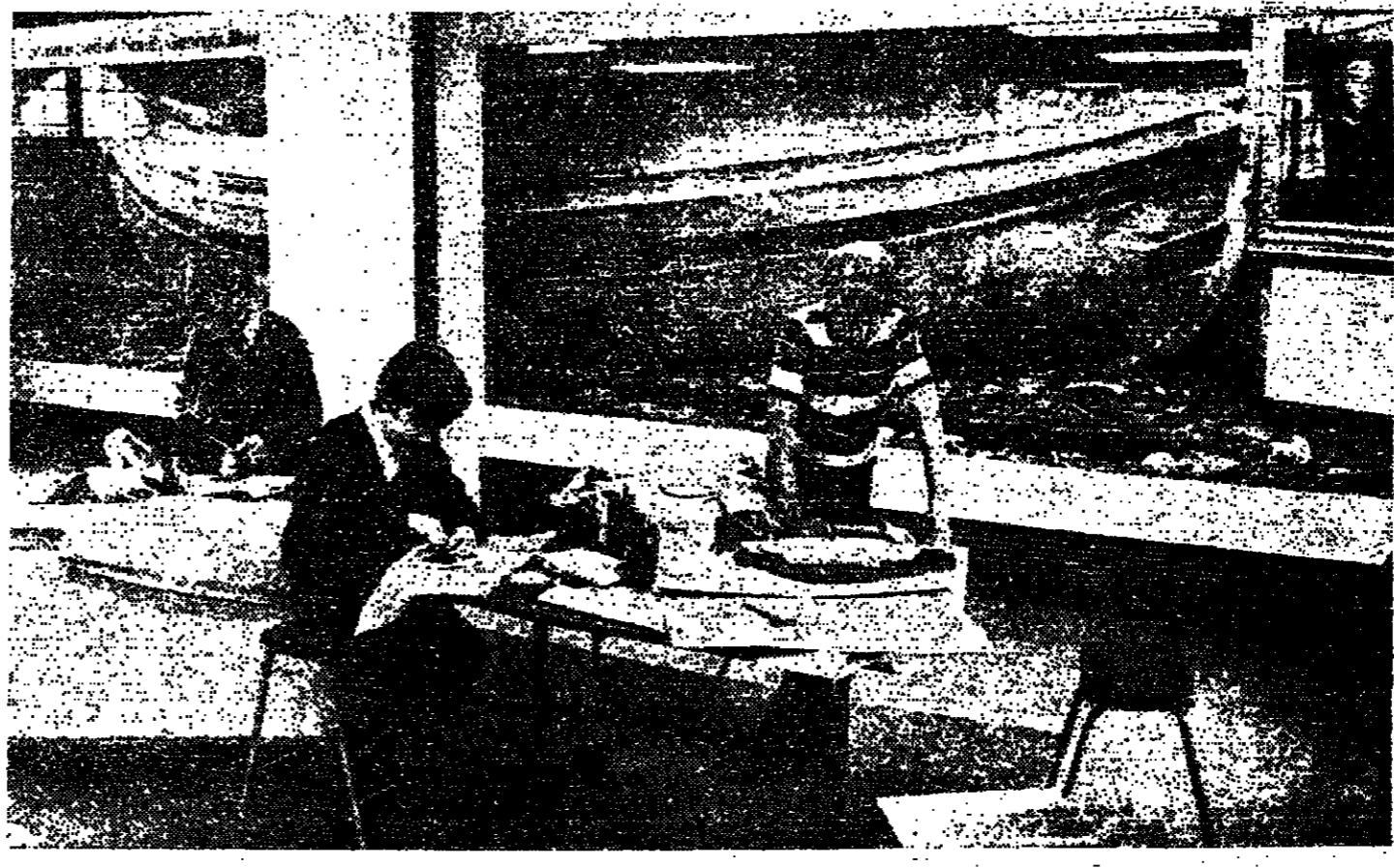
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The studio of the Half-Deck, the junior centre of the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, which has also a boat-building shop, a mess deck and a sales deck, and is to be opened by Princess Anne tomorrow...

Sotheby sale in Zurich brings record for Renaissance portrait medal

By Geraldine Norman
An auction record price of 63,000 Swiss francs (89,312) was paid for a Renaissance medal at a Sotheby's sale in Zurich on Monday...

Visit to Britain by Japanese princess

Princess Chichibu of Japan will make an official visit to Britain for 10 days from June 8, the Japanese Embassy announced yesterday...

Royal Television Society gold medal for German

The Royal Television Society's gold medal for outstanding contributions to television has been given to Dr Walter Bruch, a German, chief of the basic television research department at the ARD...

Today's engagements

The Queen receives members of South African Legion Bazelfield Pilgrimage Party, Buckingham Palace, 12.30.

Latest wills

Sir Richard Christopher Sharples, former Governor of Bermuda, who was assassinated in March 1973, has left an estate worth £201,859...

Cars from abroad

United Kingdom motor manufacturers are already meeting competition from the Continent...

Science report

"Dendrochronology" has joined the battery of scientific techniques that art historians can use to date and analyse works of art...

Italy keep grip on bridge team title

In a thrilling finish, Italy defeated the United States yesterday to retain the world bridge team championship. It was the Italian's fifteenth win in 18 years...

Latest appointments

Members of the Airworthiness Requirements Board: Mr J. R. Stinton, deputy secretary...

Dances and cocktail parties, 1974

A list of some of the dances and cocktail parties arranged to take place before the end of the year will be published on July 1 and will not be repeated...

Reception

The Red Arrows, the RAF aerobatic team, were presented with the Founders' Medal by Sir Basil Smallpeice, chairman of the Air League...

25 years ago

From The Times of Saturday, May 28, 1949.

Captain Denys Crowther

Your brief obituary of Captain Denys Crowther, a distinguished naval officer...

OBITUARY LADY MAWSON

Lady Mawson, the widow of the Antarctic explorer Douglas Mawson, died in London on Saturday, May 25, aged 82.

DR PHILIPP GRC

Dr D. L. Levi writes: The death in London May 20 of Dr Philipp brought to an end a long scientific career of great distinction...

Cardinal Jean Daniélou

Mr Frances Steegmuller writes: To the various writings by late Cardinal Jean Daniélou in your obituary...

Captain Denys Crowther

Your brief obituary of Captain Denys Crowther, a distinguished naval officer...

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Advertisement for Chester Barrie and Gieves, featuring a hat and the text 'Seduction is a suit by Chester Barrie'.

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THE TIMES BUSINESS NEWS

Keith Cardale, Groves & Co. Chartered Surveyors

Smaller societies' cool reception Co-op plan for regional bodies

Industrial Editor... Leaders at the movement congress at Llan-y-draenen...

CD trade duct likely

Hard Wigg... Council of Ministers of Economic and Development...

er fall in prices

Shares, already nerding the developments in Ireland at the week-ender ground yesterday...

RANWOOD LIMITED

SHARE CAPITAL... Issued and now being issued fully paid Ordinary Shares of 10p each £436,364

Rise of 13 pc expected in Japanese steel prices

From Peter Hazelhurst, Tokyo, March 28... Japanese steel manufacturers, the world's largest producers...

London gold price falls to \$157

There was a sharp fall in the price of gold on the London bullion market yesterday...

Cautious trading in Mersey Docks new debentures

Stock market trading in the new debentures and share/stock units of Mersey Docks and Harbour Company...

Matsushita and Motorola in deal

New York, May 28—Motorola incorporated and Matsushita Electric Industrial Company said today they had completed an agreement...

Big oil find in Maureen structure of North Sea

By Edward Townsend... Substantial oil find in the North Sea, a day, has been made in the British sector...

Fenchurch bid letter to be posted

By Ian Morrison... The expected legal battle over Guinness Peat's contested bid for Fenchurch Insurance was not joined yesterday after all...

No summary judgment on IBM, judge rules

New York, May 28—International Business Machines Corporation said today that a federal judge in Los Angeles had rejected a motion by Memorex Corporation...

How the markets moved

Table with columns: Rises, Falls, Equities, Commodities, Metals, and other market indicators.

On other pages... Business appointments, Market reports, Share prices, Bank Base Rates Table, Company Meeting Reports, Dupont Group.

Shutdown at Ulster fibre plants threatens Britain's textile industry

By Our Industrial Staff... Production in Britain's cotton and allied textile industry faces disruption unless power supplies are quickly restored in Ulster...

Russia spurns foreign help to exploit oil

From Edmund Stevens, Moscow, May 28... Foreign oil interests should forget their visions of sharing in the development and exploitation of Siberia's vast oil reserves...

US move to speed unity in stock market deals

From Frank Vogel, Washington, May 28... The United States Senate today approved legislation aimed at speeding the development of a central market communications system for buying and selling securities...

Strikes cut cigarettes supplies

By Hugh Clayton... Supplies of leading cigarette brands to shops throughout Britain have ceased because of a strike last week in England and the crisis in Northern Ireland...

Put on a happy face And enjoy the air you breathe

Vent-Axia advertisement featuring a cartoon character and text: 'Vent-Axia ventilation for factories, offices, kitchens, bathrooms, pubs and clubs... Fight fug with Vent-Axia. The ventilation your electrical dealer recommends.'

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# Fear of lost jobs with reshuffle at BLMC

By Our Midlands Industrial Correspondent

British Leyland is preparing a big reorganisation of staff at the Longbridge, Warwickshire, headquarters of the Austin Morris division. The move has caused widespread speculation that it will be accompanied by redundancies aimed principally at trimming the largest sales force in the group.

There are also reports that the engineering departments from Austin Morris, Rover-Triumph and Jaguar are being merged to form a group car engineering operation to be based at Longbridge. It is expected that a reduced Austin Morris staff will be moved from Longbridge to make way for the new set-up.

Negotiations are known to be taking place to find accommodation for the displaced sales team. A recently completed office block at Yardley, six miles from Longbridge, and also premises already owned by the group at Redditch, Worcestershire, are the most likely.

Speculation has reached such a pitch that Mr Dick Perry, managing director of Austin Morris recently addressed a meeting of staff to try to dispel their fears.

Last night, a British Leyland spokesman said: "We are looking at ways of reducing the congestion and improving staff working conditions at Longbridge."

"The investigation has naturally led to much speculation. No decisions have been taken, nor are they likely to be for some time. The reported changes in the engineering set-up are not true."

Pamplona, Spain: More than 1,000 workers have ended their occupation of a British Leyland plant here, but a strike by almost the entire work force, who are demanding increases of 6,000 pesetas (about 54s) a month and have rejected a company offer of 2,300 pesetas, continued.

# Government revokes order on hypermarket

The Department of the Environment has reversed an earlier decision which could have forced J. W. Pickles, the Yorkshire-based household goods distributor, to close down a 70,000 sq ft hypermarket at Hatfield, Suffolk. The verdict follows a public inquiry held last November.

Pressure from the town council and Chamber of Commerce led to the department issuing a provisional revocation order of the original planning permission.

# Business appointments

## Three join Midland Bank board

Mr S. T. Graham and Mr M. G. Wilcox have been appointed directors and chief general managers of the Midland Bank. Mr C. E. Trotter, chief general manager, retires on June 30 but remains a member of the board. Mr Graham will be responsible for the clearing bank functions of the group and Mr Wilcox for the non-clearing bank functions and the international division. Mr J. A. Cave becomes a director and deputy chief general manager on July 1.

Other appointments operative from July 1 are: Mr W. G. Kneale and Mr G. W. Taylor, assistant chief general managers; Mr J. Hendley and Mr R. T. Smith, general managers (international); Mr L. R. Needham and Mr D. W. C. Nitching, general managers; Mr A. F. Knights, general manager (planning); Mr S. B. G. G. Phillips has become a director of Buckley's Brewery,

# British Gas deals with N Sea groups will keep prices down

By Roger Vioveo Energy Correspondent

British Gas will continue to use its monopoly purchasing position to buy cheap natural gas from the British sector of the North Sea, even though it has contracted at the going world market rate for supplies from the Norwegian part of the Frigg field.

Oil companies who have found gas in association with oil in the northern part of the British North Sea have been told there is no possibility of sales contracts with escalation clauses linking the gas price to movement in competitive fuels.

Instead, the corporation is prepared to work out contracts with escalation clauses tied to less volatile factors such as the wholesale price index. The effect of this will be to keep British gas prices among the lowest in the world.

The Frigg contract was signed last year when the corporation was facing a serious shortage of new supplies and the prospect of zero growth in the latter part of this decade. It has also just been extended for gas from the Norwegian Ekofisk field by a group of European utilities.

# Senate may give priority to US Trade Reform Bill

From Frank Vogel Washington, May 28

A United States Senate Finance Committee official said today the committee "may conceivably set aside other important business in order to deal in executive session with the Trade Reform Bill this week."

The committee is under immense pressure from President Nixon and senior members of the Administration to accelerate its procedures to ensure swift enactment of this legislation.

The committee concluded its open hearings on the Bill just before Easter and it now seems as if the Administration's pressure is having some effect.

The big obstacle is Section Four, where an amendment sponsored by Senator Jackson ties the granting of most-favoured-nation status to Russia to an easing by the Soviet Union of its restrictive Jewish emigration regulations.

Mr William Simon, the Treasury Secretary, stated here late last week that the Administration is not willing to make a compromise proposal on this section of the Bill. But there are strong hopes now that Dr Kissinger, the Secretary of State,

will be redesignated general manager. (Business diary, page 19.)

Sir Geoffrey Howe, MP, is joining the board of ABB Research as a non-executive director. Sir Geoffrey is opposition front bench spokesman on social services and was Minister for Trade and Consumer Affairs in the last government.

Four new directors have been appointed to the board of Barclays Bank UK Management: Mr D. M. Taylor, Mr A. W. Paslin, Mr R. Pitt and Mr J. W. Dyson. Mr Albert Hunt has been named personnel director of Redfearn National Glass.

Mr G. G. Colman has become a director of United Guarantees (Holdings). Mr J. A. C. Pratt has been elected chairman of the Contract Furnishing Association. Mr Pratt is chairman and managing director of the Launbys Group.

Mr F. B. Schindel has become a senior vice-president of California Computer Products Inc. Mr Piers Hulme has been made a non-executive director of Crane Aircraft. Mr C. W. G. Phillips has become a director of Buckley's Brewery,

associated with oil, exist in the northern North Sea and will provide the basis for a long-term expansion of the gas industry in Britain.

Gas found in association with oil in the Shell-Esso Brent field is at least equal to the reserves in the Norwegian sector of the Frigg field and could provide 600 million cubic feet of gas a day by the end of the 1970s.

British Gas has begun negotiations to buy supplies from the Brent field, which has a much higher gas/oil ratio than other oilfields found off the Shetlands.

Under consideration is a 300-mile long pipeline from the field to the St. Fergus shore terminal in Aberdeenshire, where Frigg gas will be landed and fed into the national transmission network. Together with offshore processing facilities, the pipeline will cost about £530m.

British Gas is also negotiating to sell gas associated with its Forties field. The amount, about 60 million cubic feet a day, does not warrant a separate pipeline, so the gas will be liquefied on the production platforms and sent ashore in the oil pipeline. It will be regasified at BP's Grangemouth, Stirlingshire, refinery.

# France urged to encourage multinationals

From Richard Wigg Paris, May 28

Wholly controlled subsidiaries of foreign companies account for 16 per cent of business turnover in France and contribute 17 per cent of productive investment, the French Regional Development Authority (DATAR) has established in a survey.

Thomas Monod, head of DATAR, in an introduction to the survey, welcomes investment in France by multinational companies. He asks the French Government to encourage more multinationals to make their European headquarters here.

The survey was delayed by the presidential election campaign in which the left criticized the multinationals for wielding too much power in the French economy. But DATAR argues the French Government must combine vigilance with liberal engagement to concerns which conspicuously bring balance of payments benefits, jobs, and technology to France.

The survey establishes that the 981 foreign companies (out of France's total of 42,500) often have a large turnover in the economy, but it points to the "pioneering" role often played by American, British, Dutch and West German companies in helping to industrialize peripheral regions of France.

replacing Mr J. V. Harding who has retired.

The board of Hogg Robinsons CCL Pty, Australia, has been appointed as follows: Mr A. R. Uroghart (chairman), Mr T. H. Savill (managing director), Mr D. J. Fairfull, Mr J. Armstrong and Mr R. Bull.

Mr R. H. Bateman has joined the board of Kirkland-Whiteaker (Foreign Exchange and Currency Deposit Brokers). Mr B. F. Crank has been made sales director of the Star Aluminium Co.

Dr D. S. Belford has assumed responsibility as chairman of Friction Services. Mr C. W. N. Ward is appointed managing director. Mr J. Kent becomes managing director of Promin Pest Control.

Mr C. W. Holden has resigned from the board of Lion International and from his other group appointments to devote his own business interests. He will remain a consultant to the company.

Mr R. S. Scott has become director of the industrial and human resources division of Hudson/ABC Management Consultants. Mr P. J. Samuel and Mr E. J. Jeffery become associate directors in the human resources group.

Mr M. H. Good, a director of

# Kuwait oil policy aims for supplies stability

Kuwait, May 28—The Kuwait Government, now 60 per cent shareholder in The Kuwait Oil Company, the state's leading producers, has set dates and conditions for "auctions" to sell its share of future output.

Firm offers must be in by the end of June for deliveries in the second half of the year, and by the end of September for supplies in 1975 and thereafter.

Mr Abdul-Rahman Al-Araqui, finance and oil minister, making the announcement, said the government policy aims at the continuity and stability of supplies to the traditional markets for Kuwait crude and products.

All constitutional needs covering the participation agreement with the Kuwait Oil Company are now complete, he added.

Following National Assembly ratification of the accord, the government has a 60 per cent share in all existing operations, rights and facilities in Kuwait of the company's former owners, British Petroleum and Caltex Corporation of the United States, retroactively to January 1.

Mr Araqui's statement continued: "The government will immediately take the necessary steps to market its share of the production available for export, which at present amounts to the following approximate quantities: crude oil, 31 degrees api, about 1,250,000 barrels a day; lpg, butane and propane, 25,000 barrels a day.

The government would like to ensure that its marketing policy in this respect aims at the continuity and stability of supplies to the traditional markets for Kuwait crude and products, within the limits of the agreement with its pricing policy for the supplies concerned.

Prices up: Gulf Oil Corporation has announced an increase in its prices of Kuwaiti crude oil for Japanese refiners to \$10.05 a barrel from \$9.5, retroactive to April 1, a Japanese oil refiner said.

Officials said Gulf decided upon the price increase following a settlement of participation problems between Gulf Oil and the Kuwait government.

# Call for entente to avoid world recession

A warning that there must be a big effort in international co-operation if a world recession is to be avoided is given today in a report by Mr Francis Blanchard, Director-General of the International Labour Office.

Writing in the report *Action of the ILO: Problems and Prospects*, Mr Blanchard says the cooperative effort must be aimed at prevention rather than cure. He says the report is to be debated at the International Labour Conference in Geneva next month.

Mr Blanchard writes that while the spotlight today is on oil, it could soon switch to other raw materials if producing countries slow their output.

"All this might have serious effects on growth and progress. A world recession would first hit the most underprivileged countries and persons, though everyone would stand to lose eventually."

The energy crisis could have serious repercussions on production, employment, standards of living, trade and the balance of payments of all oil importing countries, Mr Blanchard says.

This could lead to disastrous effects for those economically depressed countries which have no oil reserves and few raw materials.

Advertising expenditure by the butter producers reached its highest ever level in 1972 when high prices caused a substantial sales fall.

Media Expenditure Analysis results for the last year when lower retail prices resulted in an improvement in butter sales, advertising expenditure dropped from the £2.2m spent in 1972 to £1.78m. Expenditure on television fell by 27 per cent in 1973 compared with a year earlier.

This year, when supplies of butter generally are expected to be tight, but prices remain relatively low, a further decrease in advertising expenditure is expected.

# Boost for colour TV

Television rental companies whose revenue has been hit by the sudden reduction in prices for colour television sets are preparing to compete vigorously for business. Radio Rentals, which claims to be market leader, has just launched one of the largest marketing campaigns in its history.

In addition to press and television advertising it is operating a show jumping sponsorship programme, displaying slogans at county cricket grounds, operating a mobile showroom and visiting agricultural shows in its drive for new customers.

There has been a steady increase over the past three years in the proportion of longer television commercials screened in Britain. Research produced by the Joint Industry Committee for Television Advertising Research and the AGB research company reveals a significant increase of 10.9 per cent in the popularity of the 30-second length of spot between 1966 and 1973. The 60-second length now accounts for 35.9 per cent of all commercials compared with 55 per cent eight years ago.

The research also shows a corresponding decrease in the proportion of television advertisements of 15 seconds and less.

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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## UK quality is still good but what a reputation abroad!

From Mr R. E. Schirrmacher

Sir, Many of the readers of this newspaper travel abroad themselves or have others travel for them in the interests of export. No doubt they find themselves faced with problems similar to those my overseas salesmen encounter daily.

Our company has a thriving export business. We are proud of our quality and deliveries and our prices are competitive. Unfortunately, however, everywhere I go or where our Scandinavian and German sales staff go they are faced with questions on the "English disease".

I am simply fed up with losing possible business because of the general reputation of British industry abroad. We, as a country, are a laughing stock because of our strike record. Most British goods have still a reputation for good quality and price but what an appalling reputation for broken delivery promises!

It is a sad fact of life that during the three-day week and the engineers overtime ban my export staff spent four weeks doing nothing but ring or visit existing customers to assure them that our deliveries were assured through the use of generators. This represents lost selling time and in my opinion a sorry reflection on those companies who do not adhere to the simple rules—make a promise then keep it. The malaise of the "English disease" is just as much to be laid at the door of management as of the unions and government.

It is time unions and management realized that there is an outside world searching for our goods but not daring to buy. Let us face facts. We have lost a lot of traditional markets; to find and keep new ones means consistent hard work and application. I do not like other companies spoiling our hard work by their cheap reputation and attitude to the customer. In some cases we are not even in the same league as continental competitors. Let us stop this petty bickering among ourselves. Let us use the opportunities we have. The fruit is there for the picking. Yours faithfully,

R. E. Schirrmacher, Marketing Manager, Archibald Kenrick & Sons, West Bromwich B70 6DB.

## Don't worry about bond winnings

From Mr J. P. Wilde

Sir, Your correspondent who is concerned if a Premium Savings Bond prize should go astray to the wrong person can be reassured that we do not operate the prize draw on such hit and miss methods.

Whether the prize is one of the larger ones for which we first send out a claim form, or a £25 or £50 one where we post a crossed warrant payable to the bondholder, we carry out a fixed follow-up procedure if nothing further is heard. At three months and six months we send the prize winner a reminder, and then follow up with a search of our records for any other address used by the bondholder. Failing success with these inquiries, we ask the head postmaster of the prize winner's district to try to deliver a letter for us.

The success of our efforts is surely demonstrated by the length of the list of unclaimed prizes which stands at only 7,318 after 17 years and nearly 101 million prizes. The unclaimed prizes represent bondholders who have left the addresses they registered with us, and whom we have been unable to track down. It is not true, however, that these prizes are cancelled after 18 months; they will be paid without any limit whenever we make contact with the bondholder and six months we send the prize winner a reminder, and then follow up with a search of our records for any other address used by the bondholder. Failing success with these inquiries, we ask the head postmaster of the prize winner's district to try to deliver a letter for us.

J. P. WILDE, Controller, Bonds and Socks Office, Lyham St Annex, Leicestershire FX0 1YN.

## Installation of tachographs

From Mr J. M. Gastridge

Sir, It is not as all surprising that Mr G. Osmond, marketing manager of the tachograph manufacturers, Lucas Kienzle Instruments, should advocate the enforced installation of these instruments on United Kingdom commercial vehicles.

As such it is abundantly clear that the Government will have to do its utmost to support the vast majority of operators if even at this late stage, it can prevail upon the EEC to reconsider the need for tachographs to be fitted as a legal requirement across the board.

Far better, for management decisions for tachographs to be imposed upon them from Brussels. Your faithfully, J. M. GASTRIDGE, Freight Transport Association, 46 Bedford Square, Bedford Park, Croydon.

## Registration of professional engineers

From Sir Frederick Snow

Sir, May I first of all commend *The Times* for the publicity it has given to the problem of registration for (professional) engineers.

As a member of more than one of the chartered institutions, I feel I have some obligation through these bodies to ensure that any form of registration is carried out on a fair and equitable basis, particularly as Parliament has previously rejected any move for members of one particular organization to be registered to the exclusion of all other practitioners.

Certainly I cannot accept that present conditions comply with these requirements. I understand that many consultants who have become established in private practice are now being recruited purely on the grounds of "qualifications".

Government offices are similarly following this regrettable trend by refusing even to consider for promotion many engineers whose services they have been pleased to accept for many years.

Since commencing this letter I have also seen your further letter (May 9) on the missing ranks in UK industry.

This, in engineering, has been entirely due to the chartered institutions' withdrawal of recognition for part-time studies. As a result, many promising students just give up. A few have persisted, only to be told that no recognition can now be given to their certificates.

## Does Inflation Revenue need 1,180 more staff

From Mr A. M. Alexander

Sir, It will come as no surprise to professional advisers that we have seen many delays of many months, they need to recruit 1,180 staff, as reported in a recent issue of *The Times*. It is pity that many of the necessary because the rule will not adopt a nature, that any cost business would apply a cally, to reduce their without in any way pre the legislation from w rules derive.

I have in mind the Section 16, read 17 Finance Act 1973, that cent investment charge applies to numerous trusts, who whole of the income is paid to beneficiaries themselves, not subject to tax. It is necessary accordingly make a claim of identical amount would have thought reduce the "necessary staff the legislators we have caught such trusts in.

Even accepting doubt legislative wisdom, however would have thought Revenue departments serves could mitigate the additional work tax returns are submitted, the same inspector, at the time as the relevant returns, so that there is a question of avoidance.

Yet, incredible though seem, where it is suggested such cases, that in rather pointless that in one hand and demands on the other, and on to hand make a vast amount to the person—though double months later—this acceptable. The official such a suggestion may interest to your readers:

"I would agree that case it would appear more than to exchange it for the 15 per cent surcharge. However, I have reading from my head of connection with this point regret it is not possible to any waiver, by concession, the operating of Sect and/or 17 Finance Act 1 assessments will be issued shortly. In the light of the 1,180 new staff will be time to cope? Yours faithfully,

A. M. ALEXANDER, Royds Barfield, Solicitors, 46 Bedford Square, London, WC1, May 16.

From Mr M. R. Hasan Sir, I have followed interest the correspondent, the status of "non-Char professional engineers think that the letters Stock (April 24) and M Stock (May 7) are a positive contribution to this open tribution to the profession of Engineers. Without going into th and cons of belonging constituent body of the ( of Engineering Institut quote below excerpts from report of a survey carried out by the Institution of Graduate and Students published in the issue 2 of *New Civil Engineer* weekly magazine of the tion of Civil Engineers:

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# The Scottish Mortgage and Trust Company Limited

## Summary of Results

	1974	1973
Total Net Assets at market value . . . . .	£84,871,605	£106,074,462
Ordinary Stock Units:		
Asset Value . . . . .	100p	129½p
Earnings . . . . .	net equivalent 257	gross 299
Dividend . . . . .	3.67p	3.20p
	2.30p	3.39p
Geographical Distribution of Investments		
Equities:	%	%
United Kingdom . . . . .	36.8	47.1
United States . . . . .	37.3	30.8
Japan . . . . .	3.8	5.7
Europe . . . . .	3.4	6.5
Australia . . . . .	1.0	3.6
Other Countries . . . . .	1.2	0.7
Total Equities . . . . .	87.5	94.4
Fixed Interest . . . . .	12.5	5.6

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Guinness/Fenchurch: the need for conciliation

comes daily harder to end to the Guinness Fenchurch Insurance tale does not involve loss of one or other of the parties. The case for the defence, presented today, may generate more heat than the present climate and shareholders will need a clear head when re-litigating estimates to the bid.



Sir Charles Clow, chairman of Sears Holdings: no predictions for this year.

ss common ground on can still be found, the ill be on the independent to come up with practical alternative solutions to rich's ownership and capital. Otherwise, Guinness will be bound to conceding its voting muscles. uld, for instance, declare unconditonal and/or rights issue. Such action, would make the breach independent directors with all that means for art's prospects. The only ope for minority sharees is a higher bid by one and a conciliatory attitude other.

Holdings Finance sheet

ncial ratios alone were all watered, then Sears would a of the more attractive is in the market thanks to ng asset and liquidity. Not only are net assets ip some 14p above the price of 29 1/2, disregarding £30m property surplus ed a year ago, but the ity resources are much than those implied by rde borrowings figure. It net debt of £57.5m only s repayable within five vble cash in hand is over after allowing for the of convertible loan stock in for cancellation.

and concentrating on the important cellulose film side. One rather curious feature of this period of retrenchment has been the group turnover has remained fairly static. During the latest period it has moved up somewhat, from £8.8m to £10.57m, but this still reflects a change on the volume front. With margins up from 4.9 to 9.6 per cent, over a point above the previous peak, the market must be looking for a change of emphasis from now on.

In the current year there must be worries of achieving sales expansion as growth in consumer goods is expected to be last year's boom conditions. The group argue that being a minor player has advantages in this situation, particularly as growth in the export division, with sales of just over £1m last year, is expected to more than compensate for any downturn at home. On the raw materials front, the group appear happier than most.

The shares fell 2p from their year's high to 40p yesterday, which leaves them selling on a fully-taxed historic p/e ratio of 4.6. At this point, a rating suggests the market's view that the group has seen the best as far as recovery goes. Nevertheless, Transparent is committed to a heavy programme of new investment, £1.8m this year against a current market capitalization of £2.2m, and, on the doubled dividend a yield of 12 1/2 per cent helps make the shares look interesting.

Final: 1973-74 (1972-73) Capitalization £2.18m Pre-tax profits £1.01m (£0.426m) Earnings per share 9.5p (5.85p) Dividend gross 5.0p (2.5p)

Maple Macowards

The property element

The £15m five-year loan facility arranged by Maple Macowards last October hardly looks cheap with interest fixed at 1 1/2 per cent over inter-bank deposit rate. But assuming that there are no unpleasant provisions in the print, the package is well timed in the light of the subsequent difficulties in the property market.

Against such a troubled background it is perhaps surprising that Maple goes to such lengths in the annual report to emphasize the involvement in property, which apparently accounts for around half its total capital employed of £38m. Since a valuation in September, which threw up net assets of around 100p a share, the value of the portfolio is a great deal higher, certainly. And while the directors remain confident that the Tottenham Court Road deve-

Interim 1973-74 (1972-73) Capitalization £1.9m Sales £16.67m (£16.75m) Pre-tax loss £0.47m (£1.4m) Dividend gross 1.04p (2.5p) \* Profit.

lopment programme will be worth well over £25m when completed and fully let, they have been obliged to shelve plans for living off the property side.

No doubt the cash from a property flotation would be useful for the retailing interests which continue to expand fast despite a hostile political climate for the sector—although it is worth pointing out that the property interests would probably command a bigger than average discount to net assets with so much of the value still locked up in a single development. In Maple's modernization programme is continuing and the current year is expected to see 13 store openings. Whether that will be enough to cope with both pressure on margins and a less buoyant climate for consumer spending remains to be seen.

Any marked improvement in the property climate would undoubtedly help the shares, which have fluctuated widely in recent weeks. At 27 1/2p ordinary may have some appeal as a trading counter—albeit a speculative one.

Account: 1973-74 (1972-73) Capitalization £7.49m Net assets £20.8m (£18.2m) Borrowings £14.2m (£11.8m) Pre-tax profit £1.35m (£1.28m) Earnings per share 3.0p (4.4p)

Caravans Int Opening losses

Caravans International warned last December that the fuel shortage was affecting all its markets; the outcome is a loss of £0.47m in the six months to February 28, against profits of just over £1m in the comparable half last year.

Now, CI is talking of a small profit for this year, implying a second half profit of perhaps half the comparable £1.4m; though the prospect of useful profits in South Africa, whose tax liability cannot be offset against United Kingdom losses, means that there is unlikely to be much below the line for shareholders.

CI had hoped that with some 50 per cent of its touring caravans, which account for nearly three-quarters of its total production, both made and sold abroad, it would be well equipped to ride out the United Kingdom troubles, which reduced CI to just 45 per cent of normal production during the three-day week.

However, a 100 per cent leap in timber prices last year and other sharply higher raw materials costs throughout a declining European market, ruled this out.

All of this could not have come at a worse time for CI which, having demanded its dealers to sell only CI caravans, found last year that former big distributors like Galle Group, turned elsewhere in droves. The result was overproduction from smaller companies seizing the chance to grasp a larger share of the market. Prices fell by a third and for a company like CI with a high break-even point, this hurt.

And with 65 other independent caravan makers still in existence, this situation is likely to take some time to settle down, uncertainty which the shares, down 12p to 23p yesterday, could have difficulty in coping with until the full extent of the damage is known.

Interim 1973-74 (1972-73) Capitalization £1.9m Sales £16.67m (£16.75m) Pre-tax loss £0.47m (£1.4m) Dividend gross 1.04p (2.5p) \* Profit.

Stuart Graham (left) and Malcolm Wilcox: up to the top by different routes.

Montagu and deputy chairman of Cook International, having been particularly concerned with Thomas Cook ever since Midland bought its controlling stake last year.

Troubled waters

Unione Petrolifera, the powerful pressure group representing Italy's private sector oil companies, is in difficulties and it is said it may even break up.

Members who have resigned in recent weeks include Montedison's refining companies Siuset and Rol, the Attilio Monti group (Saroni, British Petroleum Italiana and Mediterranea) and the small independent Italian group Api. Shell Italiana withdrew when taken

over by the state-owned ENI corporation.

The Unione's image has suffered badly from the oil scandal now being investigated by a parliamentary commission. Evidence presented to the commission alleges that the Unione was the channel through which the oil companies made funds available to politicians in exchange for tax concessions and favourable legislation.

A key witness before the commission has been Vincenzo Casazza, former president of the Unione and ex-chairman of Esso Italiana.

Eurocurrency: can banks cope?

Christopher Wilkins discusses the difficulties now arising

The prophets of doom have been well to the fore in predicting the demise of the Eurocurrency market of late. Dark suggestions have been made that a short, sharp crisis of confidence in such a notoriously unregulated market is all that is needed to bring the credit pyramid crashing, humbling even the mightiest banks.

The fears may not be entirely misplaced but are certainly overdone. The question is not so much whether the market can continue—its unquestionable can whatever crises of confidence it has yet to face. More fundamental is whether it can continue in its present form. In the sense of fulfilling the traditional function of intermediary between borrowers and lenders there is every reason to suppose that the banking system will eventually prove itself to be essentially inadequate.

In the midst of the present Eurocurrency boom such a conclusion has an air of the perverse. According to Morgan Guaranty, the volume of medium and long-term credits had risen from £21,500 million in 1972 to £21,500 million in the first quarter of the present year. The total debt had risen to over \$12,000 million, of which 70 per cent had climbed from \$105,000 million at the end of 1972 to \$150,000 million at the end of last year and was up by another \$10,000 million at the end of the first quarter.

All of this, moreover, took in a sizeable contribution from the vast influx of dollars and oil dollars into Arab exchequers. Confidence has been high that the Arabs will ultimately re-route a large proportion of these dollars back into the Eurocurrency market, from whence they can be freely lent to those countries suffering the impact of the higher oil prices. The position of the commercial banks as the arbiters in the centre of this market, from whence they can face it, to be immensely powerful and profitable.

The power is, in all prob-

ability, illusory. It is almost certain that the borrowing requirement of the deficit countries and the deposit-taking lending capacity of the Eurobanks are respectively much too large and much too small for the two to be reconcilable.

Even before the full scale of the oil problem has begun to emerge the signs of stress are already apparent in the case of Italy. Italy has been the heaviest single borrower in the Euro-dollar market recently having raised some \$6,200 million since the beginning of last year. It still needs substantially more and is negotiating for a further \$200m now.

But the banks no longer like to lend to Italy. Common prudence dictates that a bank's loan portfolio should not be too heavily biased towards one borrower. In addition, many banks are under legal constraints not to lend above a certain limit to a particular country. And countries such as Italy are now seriously questioning Italy's ability to go on servicing debt at much higher levels. The result has been that the last big loan to an Italian borrower (\$1,200 million for Mediocredito) was very nearly a disaster and few bankers now believe that Italy could repeat another loan on this scale.

Denmark and one or two Latin American countries are being lumped into the same category as Italy and although the United Kingdom still has considerable leeway, some bankers are further questioning how much further they will be prepared to lend before they are "full up". Within the next two years or so it is not hard to envisage a number of leading countries running out of credit in the Eurocurrency market.

But even here one has not come to the heart of the problem.

Regardless of their self-imposed lending limits many of the biggest banks are shortly going to find their lending growth inhibited by their inability to take on new deposits. Already the ratio between equity capital and deposits of banks active in the Eurocurrency market has reached alarming proportions.

In the United Kingdom domestic banking market a ratio of 1:15 would probably be regarded as the top limit commensurate with prudence. In the United States ratios range between 1:2 and 1:19. But in the Eurocurrency market it is now estimated that the ratios are on the scale of 1:40 or 1:50 and rising fast.

There is no legal reason why the ratios should not rise further to, say, 1:100 or even 1:infinity. But there are two practical constraints. The first is that bank head offices know they are running grave risks by allowing their assets to get out of hand as a result of Eurocurrency operations. The second is that as the ratios rise, the confidence of depositors in the banks is likely to weaken.

On both counts the huge flow of funds into the market which would arise if the Arabs decided this was the best place to locate their reserves—admittedly a questionable assumption—would very rapidly bring even the biggest banks to breaking point. They would simply have to close the doors and refuse to take further deposits.

It is clear even now that depositors are losing confidence in some banks, encouraged by doubts about whether the market will be able to supply the willingness to pick up the pieces in the event of a bank finding itself unable to generate deposits and meet its lending commitments as they fall due.

Significantly, a number of Japanese and Italian banks are

already having to pay above interbank rate to raise funds. Any loss of confidence by depositors would almost certainly strike the small banks first, but it is questionable whether the resultant re-routing of funds into the bigger and more prestigious banks could be absorbed by them without advancing the point at which they hit their capital deposit ceilings.

In short, the lending capacity of the world's commercial banks seems likely to run out of steam just when the demand from borrowers is rising most quickly. If this scenario is right and the banks were no longer able to act in their classic role of intermediary, how could the borrowing requirement be met?

The most simple answer would be for the banks to receive regular injections of new equity capital to keep their ratios within bounds. But since the world's equity markets are clearly in no mood to stomach a steady flow of new issues this solution would also seem to presuppose wholesale nationalization of leading banks. Some senior bankers believe this to be unavoidable.

The only alternative would be for the banking system to be bypassed entirely. Borrowers would have to deal directly with lenders and the chief role of the banker would then be to supply the pure merchant banking function of bringing the two parties together and concocting deals.

Whether such a solution would be acceptable to lenders is another matter, however. The whole attraction to depositors of the Eurocurrency system is that it enables them to lend short in a highly liquid market from which they can recover funds rapidly if necessary. Borrowers, on the other hand, are interested only in borrowing for long maturities.

How these contradictions can be reconciled remains in question. The key, it is apparent, lies in the Middle East and it is almost certain that bankers should pay the passing through Arab territories literally in their hundreds.

But clouds surround plans for Generale Immobiliare which, after inconclusive contacts for a possible sale last year to the Milanese woman financier Signora Anna Bonomi Bolchini, was then said to be destined for Finambro. This is a holding company taken over from a furniture manufacturer from Palermo, who founded it in 1972.

An increase in Finambro's capital was applied for from 500m lire (£30,000) to 160,000m lire. But since last summer the interim material credit committee has declined to grant the required authorization. No official reason has been given.

John Earle

The Sicilian 'iron-chewer'

No longer is it fair to say "Don Michele pigliò tutto". "Don Michele takes all" as an Italian magazine headlined one of the earlier attempts to unravel the labyrinth of Signor Michele Sindona's financial empire two years ago.

In Italy, as well as in the United States, the 54-year-old former lawyer and tax consultant from Patù, near Messina, has recently been suffering re-buffs. For the past year the authorities have denied the multi-millionaire permission for a massive capital increase for a hitherto obscure finance company, Finambro, which would serve as an umbrella for his activities.

Signor Sindona is the largest shareholder in the Franklin National Bank, the wealthiest largest bank in America. This bank has been suffering a liquidity crisis which has caused considerable concern, although Mr James Smith, the United States Controller of the Currency, has said he believes it to be solvent.

An appropriate nickname for Signor Sindona might be "Masticaferro" ("Iron-chewer"), said to have been given him in his youth at Patù for, without doubt, he has devoured more companies than any other living Italian.

Signor Sindona has summed himself up in one of the rare interviews given this side of the Atlantic, to The Economist in 1972. "Everything has its price, and if I think it is cheap, I buy", he said. "If it is expensive, I sell. I have no principles about what business to be in or not to be in."

Except briefly after buying the Rome English language newspaper Daily American, Signor Sindona in Italy has shown none of the approachability that he has displayed in the United States.

Signor Sindona's Italian base of operations has always been Milan, where he migrated in 1947 from the too narrow horizons of a provincial lawyer's practice in Messina. Specializing in tax consultancy, he became connected with a small private bank, Banca Privata Finanziaria, and through it with Signor Eugenio Cefis, chairman of the fibres giant, Montedison, who brought Bastogi into the Montedison orbit.

Thereupon Signor Sindona made known that he regarded the American as the most promising western economy and moved to New York.

A year ago, however, he was back in Italy with a coup which, through a series of swift offers to major shareholders unknown to the management, brought him control over the property and finance group Edilcentro-Stiluppis. Two months later, in July, it was merged into the already giant Generale Immobiliare. In banking, too,

spectacular defeat in 1971 in an attempt—second—to gain control of Bastogi. He launched Italy's biggest ever public takeover bid, acting officially for unnamed clients with whom Hambros was known to be connected. But Signor Sindona was outmanoeuvred by Signor Eugenio Cefis of Montedison, who brought Bastogi into the Montedison orbit.

An ability to read behind the frequently misleading figures of company balance sheets brought Signor Sindona into contact during the 1950s with American businessmen keen on establishing links with Italian firms but at a loss where to begin.

Signor Sindona was now rich enough to buy control of Banca Privata Finanziaria, in which he was joined as majority shareholder by Hambros and Continental Illinois. The 1960s marked a new period.

Signor Sindona was no longer an intermediary, but could operate as a one-man merchant bank, with resources to buy a large company without immediately reselling.

His attentions turned overseas. Fasco AG was founded in Liechtenstein as a personal holding company and parent to Fasco International of Luxembourg, his vehicle for control over purchases in the United States and elsewhere. Interests were acquired in Oxford Electric in the United States, whose paper associate Brown was subsequently sold to Gulf + Western.

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Salient points from the Report and Statement by the Chairman, Mr. Eric C. Sayers, for the year ended 31st January 1974.

- Profits before taxation were £7,518,000 compared with £5,779,000 for 1972/73. Earnings per share rose to 8.96p (fully diluted) compared with 7.99p (adjusted for changes in the rate of taxation) for 1972/73 and 4.56p five years ago. The year 1973/74 has been one of consistently high demand for almost all the Group's products but there was widespread disruption of operations caused by the strikes in the Gas and Mining Industries and elsewhere. Nevertheless the Steel Division produced record results. Demand was high and, with a full order book to execute at more sensible margins the Division was able to make a satisfactory return on the significant investment which has been made in South Wales and the Midlands to improve productivity and efficiency. Engineering Division: Industrial disputes presented the Division with many problems. Customers, suppliers, and, on occasions, our own works were affected, disrupting our production schedules and resulting in loss of output. The new foundry was completed and brought into full production and further significant progress was made in developing markets overseas. Domestic Products Division: Market conditions were generally buoyant for much of the year though rapid escalation of material and other costs caused profit margins to be thinner. Slumberland and Vono beds made further progress as did Swish curtain rail systems and Grovemould's kitchen units. The overall results for the first quarter of 1974/75 are comparable with the improved rate of profits earned in the second half of 1973/74. However it is generally accepted that British Industry faces new and difficult situations in the coming months with results that are impossible to foresee. In the Group context it is important to keep these factors in proportion by recognising the undoubted strengths which the Group possesses. Our technological and financial resources together with the status of our products in the market place give cause for confidence.

Summary of figures

	1974	1973
Turnover	103,686	83,281
Profit before taxation	7,518	5,779
Taxation	3,876	2,391
Ordinary Dividends (amount per share gross)	4.56p	4.33p
Number of employees	14,305	13,464

Principal Group Companies... DUPOURT LTD. TIPTON, STAFFS.

- Steel Division Duport Steel Works Limited Slumberland Limited Vono Limited Vi-Spring Limited Swish Products Limited Grovemould (Australia) Pty Limited James Arthur & Co Limited Other Interests Slumberland (Developments) Limited Crownfield Limited Tipton Limited Capabilities of the Report and Accounts may be obtained from The Secretary

US oil industry's image problems

The American oil industry is frustrated, to put it mildly, at the treatment it has received from the public. Congress and the media especially television, during the oil crisis. It is furious at what it sees as nothing less than blatant prejudice against it by the television networks.

An illustration of this feeling is a recent statement by Mobil Oil that "the avalanche of news on the energy crisis, emanating from the television networks, is simplistic and therefore inaccurate. Mobil believes that the newer media have blamed the energy shortages largely on the oil companies. The company feels that the basic structure of television news precludes adequate in-depth coverage of major issues with national impact."

The view expressed by Mobil is widespread throughout the industry. The facts of the matter are that, for Americans, the sudden creation of acute oil shortages and the development of petrol station queues came as an immense shock, that spawned indignation in a country where big business is always suspect and where the oil companies have long been distrusted.

The shock produced floods of letters to Washington and Congressmen, in this election year, felt compelled to move ahead on proposals that hit at the oil industry. The television networks have been singled out as the greatest enemies of the oil companies, because of their refusal to accept what they term as controversial oil company advertising.

The oil companies maintain that they should be allowed to buy time on television to answer their critics. The television companies reply that such controversial advertising could only be allowed if people and organizations have long disagreed with the oil companies, were given equal time to answer the oil company advertisements.

The oil companies have said they are willing to buy time to let people answer their advertisements, but the television networks have come back to say that they just do not have that much air time to sell.

Mobil has filed a memorandum with the Federal Trade Commission complaining about this treatment. The battle with the television companies may well end in the courts. But this is just side issue to the main question of how best the oil industry can improve its tarnished image.

There can be no doubt that the recent publication of record first-quarter oil company earnings has served only to cement the belief that the oil crisis is largely the fault of get-rich-quick oil companies.

Frank Vogl

Business Diary: Midland's twins • Unione's disunion

1972, when Len Mather decided to retire as chief manager of the Midland, there was much talk as to whether the old look for youth or not in his successor's choice for the job. It would be Stuart Graham or Malcolm Wilcox. In the end, the bank went for experience and picked Charles Stuart Graham, though he had only a few years to run to retirement.

Years are now up and down his executive at the end of June. This however, the Graham choice has been a different way, since each to his own.

Stuart Graham will be clearing bank operations, including the group's interests, including its financial side. Both men have spent hole working lives with their recent careers have widely differed. Graham has progressed traditional general management. Wilcox has had broad experience more diverse areas for he will now be responsible for the Midland Bank's Finance Trust and its Finance Department during the years 1970-72 when the company was being prepared for a director of Samuel



Montagu and deputy chairman of Cook International, having been particularly concerned with Thomas Cook ever since Midland bought its controlling stake last year.

Unione Petrolifera, the powerful pressure group representing Italy's private sector oil companies, is in difficulties and it is said it may even break up. Members who have resigned in recent weeks include Montedison's refining companies Siuset and Rol, the Attilio Monti group (Saroni, British Petroleum Italiana and Mediterranea) and the small independent Italian group Api. Shell Italiana withdrew when taken



over by the state-owned ENI corporation. The Unione's image has suffered badly from the oil scandal now being investigated by a parliamentary commission. Evidence presented to the commission alleges that the Unione was the channel through which the oil companies made funds available to politicians in exchange for tax concessions and favourable legislation. A key witness before the commission has been Vincenzo Casazza, former president of the Unione and ex-chairman of Esso Italiana.

Reports are circulating that Domenico Albonetti, chairman of Tot's Italian subsidiary and president of the Unione since Casazza's departure a year ago, may later this week announce his resignation. He is 77, so could plead age. His successor would probably have to be an American, since, even if the Unione survives, it will be as little more than a mouthpiece for the United States multi-nationals. One candidate being tipped is Giovanni Teodoli, chairman of Chevron Italiana.

sortium had been presented with a revised list of groceries to consider for permanent cut-price trading. Meanwhile, the Consortium was unable to draft a reply to this offer because one of its own members, the British Grocers' Federation, has been dug in its heels at the last moment and vetoed a preliminary return offer. Lord Redmayne, chairman of the Consortium, has had to spend his holiday week preparing a new and watered-down version.

Members of the Retail Food Confederation believe that the Consortium is dominated by supermarket and department store interests. The Consortium persists in claiming that it represents more than 90 per cent of High Street trade.

The three blanket groups seemed to win a rare degree of unanimity at a joint meeting last week with Alan Williams, Minister of State at the Department of Prices. They were all equally agreed at his suggestion that they might like to display lists of prices—say, for up to 80 popular groceries—until they were outside that is. It then occurred to the small traders that some of their larger rivals might find it hard to maintain vehement opposition to a plan that would damage small traders most.

The trade groups that represent the food industry are no more at peace with each other today than they were when the Conservative price freeze began more than 18 months ago. Mrs Williams can be confident of being able to divide and rule for some time.

Mrs Williams and her senior colleagues at the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection are careful to observe protocol and meet each of the three large trade groups separately. One result last week was that the CBI did not know that the Con-

Divided One of the greatest handicaps facing retail leaders haggling about price controls with Mrs Shirley Williams is their failure to agree with each other. There are three principal camps. First comes the Food and Retail Consortium, led by Colin Cullimore, fluent and photogenic managing director of the Dewhurst chain of butcher's shops.

Second in influence comes the distributors' working group of the Confederation of British Industry led by critics of the Consortium who left it last year on the grounds of under-representation.

Most recent of the trio is the Retail Food Confederation, which covers small grocers, bakers and other independent traders in perishables. Mrs Williams and her senior colleagues at the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection are careful to observe protocol and meet each of the three large trade groups separately. One result last week was that the CBI did not know that the Con-

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MARKET REPORTS

Commodities

Forward copper down by £28.50

EX closed £22.50 for cash and £28.50 for three months... The forward copper price fell by £28.50 to £22.50...

Recent Issues

Recent Issues: A list of newly issued securities including various government bonds and corporate issues.

Patchy day for discount market

Patchy day for discount market: It was a difficult day in Lombard Street after the long holiday week-end...

Money Market Rates

Table of Money Market Rates showing various interest rates for different terms and currencies.

Bank Base Rates

Table of Bank Base Rates for various banks including Barclays, NCF, and others.

Foreign Exchange

Foreign Exchange: Dollar strong against sterling. The main feature of foreign exchange markets yesterday was the strength of the dollar...

Spot Position of Sterling

Table showing the Spot Position of Sterling with market rates for various locations like New York, London, and others.

The Times Share Indices

Table of The Times Share Indices including the Total Share Index and various sector indices.

Forward Levels

Table of Forward Levels for various currencies and commodities.

Table of Bank Base Rates for various banks and their respective rates.

Foreign Exchange: Dollar strong against sterling. The main feature of foreign exchange markets yesterday was the strength of the dollar...

Table of Spot Position of Sterling with market rates for various locations.

Table of The Times Share Indices including the Total Share Index and various sector indices.

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Table of Bank Base Rates for various banks and their respective rates.

Table of Spot Position of Sterling with market rates for various locations.

Table of The Times Share Indices including the Total Share Index and various sector indices.



THE TIMES AWARDS FOR THE BEST ADVERTISEMENT OF A COMPANY'S RESULTS TO APPEAR IN 1974

PANEL OF JUDGES: The Times is pleased to announce that the following members of the business community have kindly agreed to act as judges of the entries for The Times Awards.

- Chairman: Lord Shawcross, Chairman of the Panel on Takeovers and Mergers.
Members: Michael Belmont, Cazenove and Company; Anthony Everett, Binder Hamlyn and Company; Edgar Palamountain, The M & G Group; Sir Paul Reilly, Director of The Design Centre; Hugh Stephenson, Editor of The Times Business News.

Each member of this panel has been chosen for his knowledge of a particular discipline which relates to this specialized form of communication. Perhaps the most striking change in financial advertising in recent years has been the increasing clarity with which a company's results are presented. However, much remains to be done and it is to encourage further progress in this important field that The Times has decided to sponsor a number of awards for the best example of the advertising of a company's results to appear in 1974.

The conditions of entry are set out below and companies are invited to send their entry at any time during this year.

Conditions of Entry

All entries are free but must have appeared in the pages of The Times Business News during 1974. The following are the categories in which awards will be made: 1 Colour. All sizes. 2 Black and white. Half page or larger, or equivalent. 3 Black and white. Less than half page or equivalent. First, second and third prizes will be awarded in each category. Entries will be accepted throughout the twelve month period 1 January - 31 December 1974 and should take the form of art pulls mounted on board, with a clear indication of the category in which they are to be judged. They should be sent to: Michael Mander, Advertisement and Marketing Director, The Times Awards, The Times, Printing House Square, London EC4P 4DE. Presentation of the awards will be made at a dinner given by The Times at the conclusion of the competition.

Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

Large table listing various financial products, including authorized units, insurance policies, and offshore funds, with columns for bid and offer prices.

**DOUGLAS**  
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 BIRMINGHAM • CARDIFF • LIVERPOOL • LONDON • STOCKTON • SWANSEA

London and Regional Market Prices  
**Continuing weak**

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, May 24 Dealings End, June 7 Contango Day, June 10 Settlement Day, June 13  
 § Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

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**SAVE & PROSPER GROUP**

1974 High Low	Company	Price	Chgs	Div	Yld	1974 High Low	Company	Price	Chgs	Div	Yld	1974 High Low	Company	Price	Chgs	Div	Yld
100.00	British Airways	100.00				100.00	British Airways	100.00				100.00	British Airways	100.00			
100.00	British Airways	100.00				100.00	British Airways	100.00				100.00	British Airways	100.00			
100.00	British Airways	100.00				100.00	British Airways	100.00				100.00	British Airways	100.00			

**MODERN**  
**EDUCATIONAL**  
**SECRETARIAL CO**

Advertisement for educational services, including secretarial training and language courses.

# Commercial and Industrial Property

**FREEMOLD SHOP**  
A GOOD POSITION  
In the Information Age  
Supermarket, etc.  
**MARKET SQUARE,  
TRAM ABBEY, ESSEX.**  
Offered for sale by auction  
The River Lea Restaurant,  
Sand, Broxbourne, Herts.  
On 29th, JUNE, 1974.

**Wallace  
Partners**  
45, STREET, HODDERSOON,  
S. Tel: HODD. 88471.

**ICES TO LET**  
In the heart of London  
From 1,000 to 50,000 sq. ft.  
For rent, lease, or purchase  
Handover & vacant possession  
See valuations contact.

**BRECKER  
GROSSMITH**  
100, Street London W1M 0BQ  
Tel: 01-486 3531

**Premises  
to let**  
In the heart of London  
From 1,000 to 50,000 sq. ft.  
For rent, lease, or purchase  
Handover & vacant possession  
See valuations contact.

**BRECKER  
GROSSMITH**  
100, Street London W1M 0BQ  
Tel: 01-486 3531

**FFICE ROOM**  
In the heart of London  
From 1,000 to 50,000 sq. ft.  
For rent, lease, or purchase  
Handover & vacant possession  
See valuations contact.

**BRECKER  
GROSSMITH**  
100, Street London W1M 0BQ  
Tel: 01-486 3531



**The Regent Street redevelopment scheme in Bristol.**  
Last week's government statement on the future of business rents will at least do something to relieve the uncertainty which has been besetting the market. This factor as much as anything has caused the sluggishness increasingly apparent during the past few weeks, resulting in a dearth of new schemes.

Meanwhile, those schemes which have been going ahead have usually been in promising locations outside London where the planning was in an advanced stage.

In Gloucester, for example, Woodchester Properties, a subsidiary of Berkeley Hambro, have obtained planning consent for an office block in the central area of the city. It is hoped that work will start at the end of the year.

The scheme is at 221 Westgate Street. Designed by Newbery Levinson and Partners, it will have about 50,000 sq. ft. of office space in a four-story building consisting of ground and three upper floors, all air-conditioned. Extensive parking is to be provided and the site will be landscaped in keeping with its riverside setting. Sidney Noble and Co. who acquired the site for Woodchester, are dealing with the letting.

Work is nearing completion on one big scheme which got off the ground long before the present economic situation developed. This is the large central area redevelopment at Woking being carried out by the Norwich Union Insurance Group in partnership with Woking Borough Council, where letting is going well. Situated between Commercial Road and the new inner ring road, it comprises 130,000 sq. ft. of offices in two blocks, and about 243,000 sq. ft. of shopping space in three major stores and shops.

Letting is through Jones Lang Wootton and Mann and Co. who report that all three stores and tenants include Boots, Sainsbury and MacFisheries. Negotiations are well under way for the letting of all the offices. The architects for the scheme are Scott Brownrigg and Turner, and the first phase of the shopping is due to open for public opening in November; and phase two, consisting of the remaining 22 shops, next spring. The Liver Industrial Estate, the block is due for completion next January. The scheme, which is

**Property Rents plan relieves uncertainty**

existing accommodation, with land for a further 200,000 sq. ft. which will be developed to individual requirements.

Four large buildings to be retained were put up during the war and they range in size from 27,000 sq. ft. to 81,000 sq. ft. They are to be improved and modernized, where necessary, and extensive landscaping will be carried out. Joint agents are Dixon Henderson and Co of Liverpool, and B. H. and J. Robinson, who acted for Lucas in the negotiations.

In Yorkshire work has begun on the Ossett Spa trading estate, a development being carried out by Metropolitan Property Developments. The scheme is an expansion of the same developer's Roundwood Estate on the opposite side of the M1 at junction 40, now almost fully let. A first phase of 25,000 sq. ft. is being built on the estate and will be available for occupation in the autumn.

The whole site extends to about two and a half acres and further units are to be built. Alternatively, consideration may be given to a freehold sale of the building under construction, with some additional yard space. The scheme is designed by D. J. Curtis and Associates and letting is through King and Co. of Leeds.

Rapid Developments, a subsidiary of the Bank of Scotland Finance Co. have received planning consent for an industrial site of about 15 acres at Dewsbury, to be known as the Breton Estate. Plans are in hand for a first phase of 60,000 sq. ft. to be built as advance units. There will be units in the second phase for units of between 5,000 and 100,000 sq. ft. to tenants' requirements. The site was bought for Rapid by Fuller, Horsey, Sons and Casell, who will be joint letting agents with Henry Spencer and Sons, of Leeds.

The Graylaw Group have started work on their industrial development at Tomlinson Road, Leyland, Lancashire. Eight units ranging from 5,000 sq. ft. to 65,000 sq. ft. suitable for factory or warehouse use, will be ready for occupation late in the autumn. Rents are about 50p a sq. ft. per annum. Watson, of Preston, Wade and Waters, of Bradford, and Graylaw in the acquisition and as project advisers, and are Owen and Partners, of Liverpool.

**Property Rents plan relieves uncertainty**

being carried out by Chesterfield Properties, is at the junction of Merchants Road and Regent Street. The building has been designed by Sir John Burnet Tait Powell and Partners to harmonize with the general architecture of the area. When finished it will provide about 10,200 sq. ft. of air-conditioned offices on ground and four upper floors. The agents are Lalonde Bros and Parham, of Bristol.

There has been some activity in the industrial field in Britain and on the Continent. In Belgium two subsidiaries of Hurst End Honderd BV, part of the Reamhurst Group, are to develop an estate at Vilvoorde, on the north-east side of Brussels, at a cost of about £2m. The site is at the junction of the Chaussee de Malines and the proposed extension of Woluwe-ring road, which will have a dual carriageway access to Brussels airport.

Nearly 230,000 sq. ft. of warehousing and offices are to be built to provide a range of units varying from more than 10,000 sq. ft. to more than 100,000 sq. ft. The site was acquired from the commune of Vilvoorde and building will begin this month. The first units becoming available in January. The scheme was introduced to Hurst End by Knight Frank and Rutley, of London, who, with Richard Ellis SA, of Brussels, are joint letting agents.

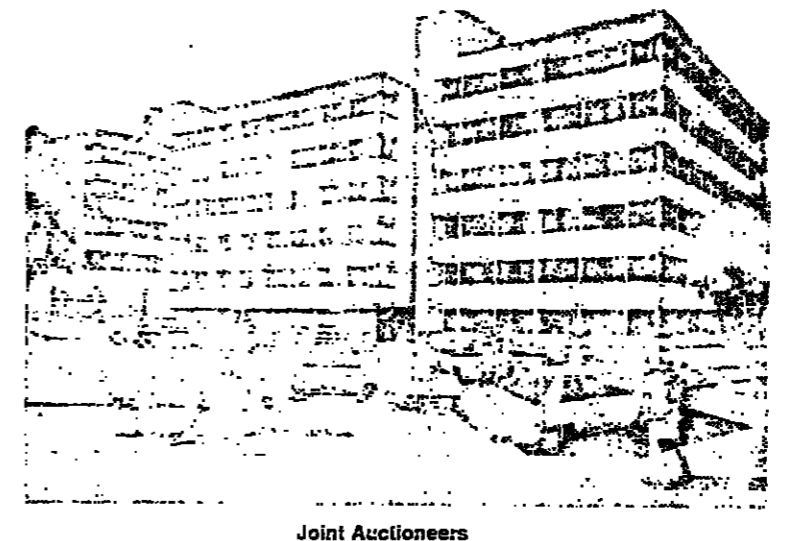
In Britain, Portal Developments, the Merseyside company founded by John Leigh and Colin Murphy in 1970, have bought 19 acres of land and buildings at Long Lane, Alderley, and have plans for development to be known as the Alderley Industrial Estate. The site, formerly owned by Joseph Lucas, has 200,000 sq. ft. of

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Women's Appointments also on pages 24 & 25

SECRETARIAL UNILEVER'S FINANCIAL DIRECTOR requires a SENIOR SECRETARY As secretary to Unilever's Financial Director you will be at the centre of an interesting, highly confidential and pressurized activity...

SECRETARY/PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO OUR MARKETING DIRECTOR We are looking for a mature lady with proficient secretarial skills to assist our marketing director. This is a responsible position calling for tact and self-motivation...

NEWLY OPENED LAW OFFICE (American) ARABIAN GULF AREA require legal secretary/P.A. Age 25-+. Highest skills including legal required.

SECRETARY TO PROPERTY DIRECTOR of the Lewis Shops Group required. Accurate shorthand and typing essential. £2,000 p.a. for fully experienced applicant.

TOP LEGAL SECRETARY £2,000 P.A. PLUS for busy partner in Lincoln's Inn solicitors firm. A first class salary will be offered to a first class legal secretary.

SECRETARY/P.A. Recruited by General Manager of International of French, German and Italian publishing groups in the C.I.A. Application should be made to...

SECRETARY/TYPIST Young lady with fine command of English and ability to fill the hours of free time in comfortable Swiss State office. Knowledge of French preferred.

THE WORLD AT YOUR FINGERTIPS... If you can use your head and your fingers, we can do something for your busy life.

Job interest Good atmosphere Great money What More could a Secretary Want? LUXURY OFFICES? IN MAYFAIR? Well that's what we can offer you as PERSONAL SECRETARY to the Managing Director of this progressive and thriving leading Leisure Group.

SECRETARIES for Germany We require several English speaking Secretaries to join our international ethical pharmaceutical company based in Frankfurt (Main), Germany. A good education and sound secretarial skills are essential...

WOMEN'S APPOINTMENTS SECRETARIAL BEAUTY BUSINESS Definitely the most interesting job opportunity in this Mayfair-based international cosmetic company is coming up...

STELLA FISHER IN THE STRAND CONTENTED TEMPS Whether you are young and undecided about future plans or an older woman retiring from a lifetime's permanent work you would probably enjoy a spell as a Stella Fisher Temp.

MONICA GROVE & ASSOCIATES FIRST CLASS P.A. with 15 years experience needed to help set up new office and process with company, taking part in the broking function. Salary negotiable £2,000 - free yearly travel overseas.

SECRETARIES FOR OVERSEAS Italy, Las Palmas, Germany, France, Brussels. Hotel Group, Oil Company, Chemicals, Banking, Commercial. Knowl. of Italian, French, Spanish, English, Dutch & French.

TEMP AT TOP RATES Shorthand and audio 425 p.w. Copy typing 425 p.w. Clerical 425 p.w. or take a permanent job. College leaver - no executive secretaries up to £2,500 per annum.

ADVERTISING INTERNATIONAL Give rise to your creative flair. As Secy./P.A. in this international company there is plenty of scope for initiative and drive. Admin. at Director level. International liaison. Outstanding business.

P.A./SECRETARY £2,200 Two busy nursery Company Directors need a British and a German Secretary with good shorthand & typing skills. Modern offices near Oxford Circus.

THE SPORTY SORT TO £2,000 Large sporting company to Knightsbridge, needs an experienced Secretary with good shorthand & typing to work with their chief administrator.

MEET THE CLIENTS £2,300! Scope company just off Berkeley Square, London, requires a Personal Secretary to assist a Director, to cope with customer queries and other visits as well as day to day running of the office.

YOUNG DESIGN CONSULTANTS require girl to run office in Wardour Street. Excellent working conditions, progressive, long term. Remuneration, Picken, 47 967.

WOMEN'S APPOINTMENTS SECRETARIAL TOP FLIGHT SECRETARY/PA (£2,500+.) Personable, well-educated career Secretary (30-40) required to assist a busy senior partner in world-wide professional firm in the City (near Bank Station).

SECRETARY/P.A. FORM INTERNATIONAL We require a Secretary/Personal Assistant who will enjoy working with a group of lively young people for a company marketing an international collection of contemporary furniture and textiles.

DIPLOMATIC MISSION requires SECRETARIES for Cultural Affairs Section, and other departments. Excellent positions. New salary scale shortly applicable and commencing range will be £1,222-£2,044 p.a. according to age and experience.

SHOE DESIGN STUDIO No Bond Street, is looking for an enthusiastic female to work with a team of designers and designers. Generally help in running the studio including typing and possible graphic design. Lively, intelligent, creative, public and promotional approach with a willingness to learn most important. Salary dependent upon your experience and ability, but within £1,600 to £1,900.

GO-WEST... Personal Assistant to a firm of International Management Consultants with superb offices in City. The candidate is to be an international manager. Admin. at Director level. International liaison. Outstanding business.

MANAGING DIRECTOR requires an experienced and energetic Secretary to assist a Managing Director in the City. Excellent working conditions, progressive, long term. Remuneration, Picken, 47 967.

LEGAL LEGAL £2,000 p.a. Secretary/P.A. shorthand or audio for Criminal Litigation Partner. Excellent working conditions, progressive, long term. Remuneration, Picken, 47 967.

WOMAN'S OWN Photographer Editor requires a Secretary, age 21-30, with a typing and shorthand skills. Excellent working conditions, progressive, long term. Remuneration, Picken, 47 967.

START AFRESH £2,000+ Excellent opportunity for career minded secretary as P.A. to the Managing Director, helping to set up a large company entering the market. Very interesting spot for intelligent, energetic girl. Miss Green, CHALLINGTONS, 29/33 Goswell Rd., EC1A 3JF.

ADVERTISING ENCL. needs Secy./P.A. (60% 40%) in advertising agency. Excellent working conditions, progressive, long term. Remuneration, Picken, 47 967.

WOMEN'S APPOINTMENTS SECRETARIAL PERSONAL SECRETARY To Operations Manager of an International Finance Company. The company consists of a staff of individuals with specialist skills handling financing transactions in numerous countries. Good salary and pension scheme. Salary commensurate with experience and skills, but will be at least £2,000.

SECRETARY/P.A. FORM INTERNATIONAL We require a Secretary/Personal Assistant who will enjoy working with a group of lively young people for a company marketing an international collection of contemporary furniture and textiles.

PERSONAL ASSISTANT urgently required for the Secretary of a busy non-commercial organization. Candidate requires an advantage. Good shorthand and typing essential. Salary to be £2,000 p.a. negotiable. 4 weeks annual holiday (arrangements home). Phone Christopher Nixon, 58, 24/25.

PERSONAL EXECUTIVE SECRETARY for managing director. Attributes should show and office. Applicant must have the ability to organize, coordinate and complete business at an executive level. Responsibilities will also include public and promotional work. Occasional trips to Europe may be required.

BOND ST. BUREAU SWINERTON ROYCE & CO. Secretaries (International NOT necessary) with languages: Italian and/or French and/or Spanish. For Term. Group, to spend summer in Italy. Salary £1,800-£2,000. Excellent working conditions, progressive, long term. Remuneration, Picken, 47 967.

LEGAL LEGAL £2,000 p.a. Secretary/P.A. shorthand or audio for Criminal Litigation Partner. Excellent working conditions, progressive, long term. Remuneration, Picken, 47 967.

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ADVERTISING ENCL. needs Secy./P.A. (60% 40%) in advertising agency. Excellent working conditions, progressive, long term. Remuneration, Picken, 47 967.

ROLLS-ROYCE & BENTLEY ROLLS-ROYCE SIL SHADOW L.w.b. without division, garnet vit everflex roof. Fawn upholstery. Our history and condition. Radio; air con central locking; Sundym glass; telephone aerials Mileage 45,000 still under Rolls gu Registration: 384 BLU E10250 Telephone: Newbury 49

MOTOR BRISTOL 411 D.L. only mil. £200 per car on list. Tel.: Green (W) 22-29-5. I & J MOTORS LTD. 100, The Broadway, London E15 4JG. Tel.: 01-743 1823.

MERCEDES DIRECTOR'S ROLLS FOR SALE 1972. Turbo Grey. Low mileage. Excellent condition. Call for details. Tel.: 01-491 7043 (day).

ROLLS-ROYCE Silver Shadow, 1971. 1971. 32,000 miles. One owner. Excellent condition. Call for details. Tel.: 01-491 7043 (day).

ROLLS-ROYCE Silver Shadow, 1972. 1972. 32,000 miles. One owner. Excellent condition. Call for details. Tel.: 01-491 7043 (day).

ROLLS-ROYCE Silver Shadow, 1973. 1973. 32,000 miles. One owner. Excellent condition. Call for details. Tel.: 01-491 7043 (day).

ROLLS-ROYCE Silver Shadow, 1974. 1974. 32,000 miles. One owner. Excellent condition. Call for details. Tel.: 01-491 7043 (day).

ROLLS-ROYCE Silver Shadow, 1975. 1975. 32,000 miles. One owner. Excellent condition. Call for details. Tel.: 01-491 7043 (day).

ROLLS-ROYCE Silver Shadow, 1976. 1976. 32,000 miles. One owner. Excellent condition. Call for details. Tel.: 01-491 7043 (day).

ROLLS-ROYCE Silver Shadow, 1977. 1977. 32,000 miles. One owner. Excellent condition. Call for details. Tel.: 01-491 7043 (day).

ROLLS-ROYCE Silver Shadow, 1978. 1978. 32,000 miles. One owner. Excellent condition. Call for details. Tel.: 01-491 7043 (day).

ROLLS-ROYCE Silver Shadow, 1979. 1979. 32,000 miles. One owner. Excellent condition. Call for details. Tel.: 01-491 7043 (day).

ROLLS-ROYCE Silver Shadow, 1980. 1980. 32,000 miles. One owner. Excellent condition. Call for details. Tel.: 01-491 7043 (day).



ADVERTISING... Rates and contact information for advertising in the paper.

BIRTHS... News of various births, including children of celebrities and families.

DEATHS... News of various deaths, including prominent figures and local residents.

DEATHS... Continuation of death notices from the previous section.

DEATHS... Further death notices, including obituaries for some individuals.

DEATHS... More death notices, including family announcements.

DEATHS... Final section of death notices in this column.

BIRTHDAYS... List of birthdays for notable individuals.

MARRIAGES... News of various marriages and wedding announcements.

BIRTHS... Birth notices for children born in the week.

DEATHS... Death notices for the week.

DEATHS... Continuation of death notices.

DEATHS... Further death notices.

DEATHS... More death notices.

DEATHS... Final section of death notices.

BIRTHDAYS... Birthdays for the week.

MARRIAGES... Wedding news for the week.

MARRIAGES... Continuation of marriage announcements.

BIRTHS... Birth notices.

DEATHS... Death notices.

DEATHS... Continuation of death notices.

DEATHS... Further death notices.

DEATHS... More death notices.

DEATHS... Final section of death notices.

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MARRIAGES... Continuation of marriage announcements.

BIRTHS... Birth notices.

DEATHS... Death notices.

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DEATHS... Final section of death notices.

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MARRIAGES... Wedding news for the week.

MARRIAGES... Continuation of marriage announcements.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 13,699. Includes the puzzle grid and clues.

ORAL CONTRACEPTIVES AND HEALTH. Advertisement for oral contraceptives, highlighting their benefits and safety.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS. Advertisement for the Royal College of General Practitioners, listing members and services.

MORE POSITIONS FOR LEADERS WANTED. Advertisement for various leadership positions, including roles in education and industry.

YACHTS AND BOATS. Advertisement for yachts and boats, including details on specifications and prices.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 13,699. Continuation of the crossword puzzle with answers and further clues.

ORAL CONTRACEPTIVES AND HEALTH. Advertisement for oral contraceptives, continuing the previous ad.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS. Advertisement for the Royal College of General Practitioners, continuing the previous ad.

MORE POSITIONS FOR LEADERS WANTED. Advertisement for various leadership positions, continuing the previous ad.

YACHTS AND BOATS. Advertisement for yachts and boats, continuing the previous ad.

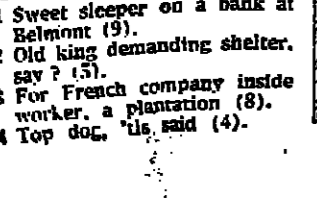
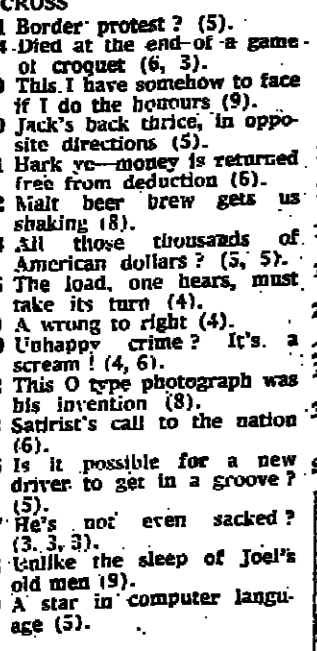
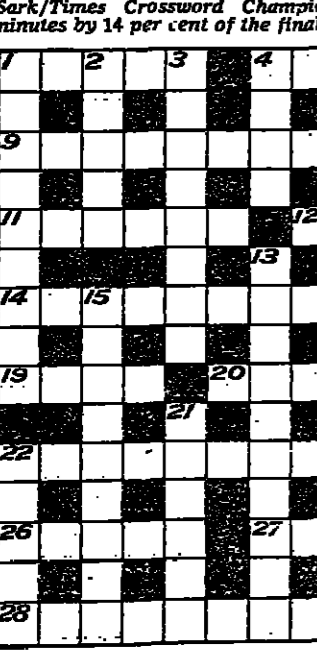
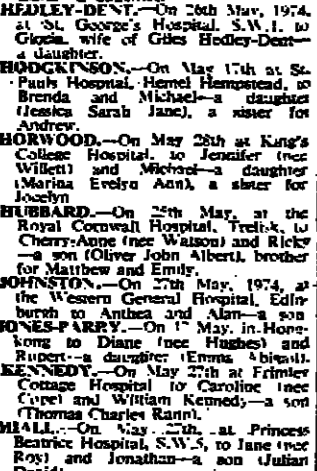
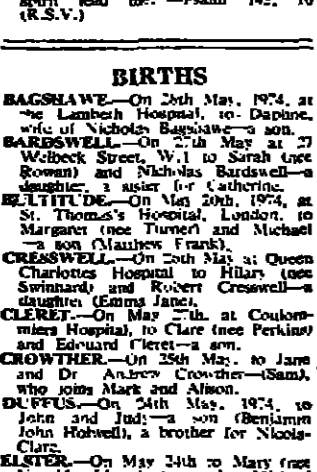
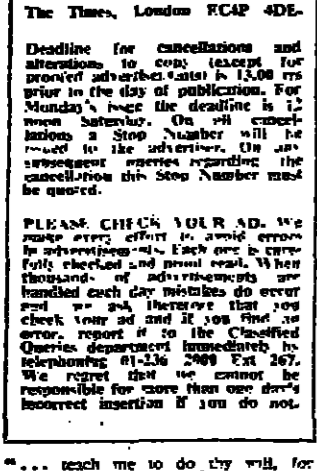
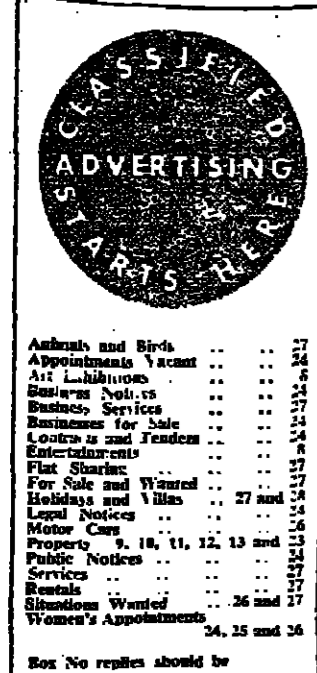
THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 13,699. Final section of the crossword puzzle.

ORAL CONTRACEPTIVES AND HEALTH. Advertisement for oral contraceptives, continuing the previous ad.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS. Advertisement for the Royal College of General Practitioners, continuing the previous ad.

MORE POSITIONS FOR LEADERS WANTED. Advertisement for various leadership positions, continuing the previous ad.

YACHTS AND BOATS. Advertisement for yachts and boats, continuing the previous ad.



PERSONAL COLUMNS ALSO ON PAGE 27. A header for the personal columns section.

BACCHUS LEADERS. Advertisement for Bacchus leaders, promoting social events and leisure activities.

GRACIOUS LIVING. Advertisement for 'Gracious Living', a publication or service.

DO ANIMALS FEEL PAIN? Advertisement for a book or article titled 'Do Animals Feel Pain?'.

LET'S CONQUER CANCER IN THE SEVENTIES. Advertisement for cancer awareness or research.

YACHTS AND BOATS. Advertisement for yachts and boats.

MOROCCO HAVE A FABULOUS SUMMER HOLIDAY. Advertisement for a holiday in Morocco.

AFRICA SPECIALISTS (ECON AIR). Advertisement for Africa specialists and air services.

TICKETS TO MOST DESTINATIONS. Advertisement for travel agencies and ticket services.

GOZO A DIFFERENT MALTA. Advertisement for travel to Gozo, Malta.

OVERLAND TRIPS WITH SMALL BROTHERS. Advertisement for overland travel services.

COMPLETE IMMERSION. Advertisement for language immersion courses.

ALGARVE 56 BUNGALOWS. Advertisement for bungalow properties in Algarve.

SPAIN - Beautiful with above superb. Advertisement for travel to Spain.

GO NOW NOW NOW. Advertisement for a travel or service offer.

WINNER MINIKAI. Advertisement for a contest or competition.

THE SUMMER OF '74 IN SPAIN. Advertisement for a summer holiday in Spain.

ENCOUNTER OVERLAND. Advertisement for overland travel services.

ALGARVE 79 F. Advertisement for Algarve properties.

YACHTS AND BOATS FOR SALE. Advertisement for yachts and boats for sale.

VILLA MEGALIANOS SKIATHOS. Advertisement for a villa in Skiathos.

TODAY'S SPECIAL. Advertisement for a special offer or event.

CPT GREEK AND SWISS HOLIDAYS. Advertisement for Greek and Swiss holidays.

FLY TO COSTA RICA FOR MORE. Advertisement for travel to Costa Rica.

SUN DANCE IN MOROCCO. Advertisement for a sun dance in Morocco.

BARGAIN OF THE MONTH. Advertisement for a special bargain.

WREN FLYING. Advertisement for wren flying services.

TOP FLIGHT TRAVEL. Advertisement for top flight travel services.

TRAVEL TO AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND. Advertisement for travel to Australia and New Zealand.

REGULAR SERVICE. Advertisement for a regular service.

OCEANWAYS. Advertisement for Oceanways travel services.

WORLD-WIDE FLIGHT. Advertisement for world-wide flight services.

NEWWAYS TRAVEL. Advertisement for Newways travel services.

AFRICA TRAVEL SPECIALISTS. Advertisement for Africa travel specialists.

ALGARVE VILLAGES. Advertisement for Algarve villages.

FREE HOSPITALS AND HANGERS. Advertisement for free hospitals and hangers.

CYPRUS. Advertisement for travel to Cyprus.

ALGARVE 79 F. Advertisement for Algarve properties.

KISS ME VIA ISLAND DISCO. Advertisement for a disco or event.

ABSOLUTELY RICH. Advertisement for a luxury or high-end service.

JOHN MORGAN TRAVEL. Advertisement for John Morgan Travel services.

FLY TO COSTA RICA FOR MORE. Advertisement for travel to Costa Rica.

SUN DANCE IN MOROCCO. Advertisement for a sun dance in Morocco.

BARGAIN OF THE MONTH. Advertisement for a special bargain.

WREN FLYING. Advertisement for wren flying services.

TOP FLIGHT TRAVEL. Advertisement for top flight travel services.

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CYPRUS. Advertisement for travel to Cyprus.

ALGARVE 79 F. Advertisement for Algarve properties.

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